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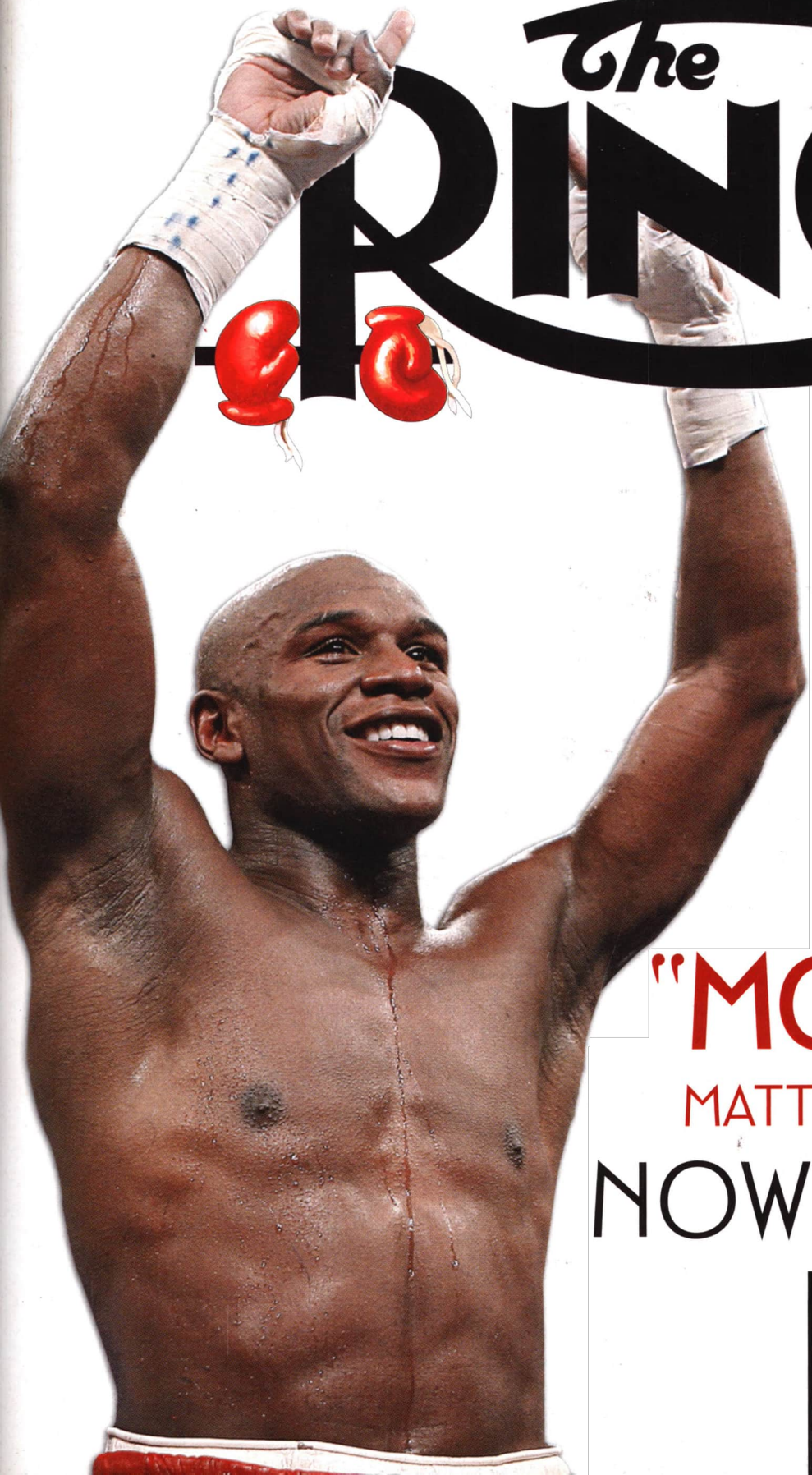

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Volume 88, No. 13 December 2009

The Ring

Bittersweet Comeback

The unseemly circus surrounding the weigh-in for the Floyd Mayweather-Juan Manuel Marquez fight was basically a clumsily executed con. It was clear from the day the fight was announced that something was fishy. Nobody would say what the contracted weight was, and all efforts to find out in the months leading up to the fight were rebuffed by doubletalk and obfuscation.

Most likely, all concerned parties were in on the ruse from the get-go, maybe even Marquez. But what was the motive behind the subterfuge?

Although many postfight articles indicated otherwise, anybody who actually understands boxing and watched the fight realizes that Floyd's size advantage was not the main reason he won. Mayweather won because he was better than Marquez, not because he's bigger.

So what's the real story behind the alleged 11th-hour deal to allow Mayweather to weigh 146 pounds?

I believe it was Mayweather's imperious ego—which requires that absolutely everything has to be in his favor—and the eagerness of those involved to stroke it. Even if it means misleading the media and the general public.

The reason for all the sycophantic appeasement became obvious as soon as the pay-per-view numbers were revealed: Any fighter who can sell a million pay-per-views will find plenty of people eager to do his bidding.

Boxing is fortunate to have Mayweather back in action. Not only is he a superb talent, his over-the-top persona attracts folks who normally don't give boxing a second thought. A fighter who can draw a crossover audience is a huge plus for the sport, even if he garners attention by acting like a spoiled brat.

Even so, people who spend a lot of time bragging about how great they are (or how much money they have) are usually acting out of insecurity. And as I watched the Mayweather-Marquez fight with colleague Bill Dettloff, I wondered out loud why somebody so brilliant at his craft is so insecure.

"Maybe it's his insecurity that makes him great," suggested Bill.

Bingo! I believe Bill nailed it. Every great fighter (and make no mistake about it, Mayweather is a great fighter) is driven by some sort of internal fire that motivates him to reach beyond the normal limits. With some it's fear; with others it's emotional turmoil, poverty, or some other sort of trauma. And, if it's insecurity that pushes Mayweather to excel, so be it.

But that doesn't mean his every demand should be accommodated. The industry has to look beyond the next mega-fight and see the big picture.

Sure, boxing can survive on two or three huge events a year involving the likes of Mayweather or Manny Pacquiao, but to prosper and regain its former status as a major sport, it has to eliminate the popular perception that it is as crooked as a pretzel. Stunts like the Mayweather-Marquez weigh-in fiasco only serve to reinforce the mainstream's low opinion of boxing.

On balance, Mayweather's return was a positive thing for the sport, but if the powers that be continue to cater to his every egotistical whim and insecure demand, a terrific opportunity to advance the cause of the Sweet Science will be lost.

Boxing needs Mayweather—needs him badly—but his full potential will never be realized unless he abandons his security blanket. It's time those who hold the purse strings stop being enablers and steer him in the right direction.

Nigel Collins
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[Opening Shot]

So Close And Yet So Far

Miguel Cotto and Manny Pacquiao are not the sort of guys you would expect to start an unscheduled brawl during a press conference, but it sure looked like Top Rank wanted to keep them as far apart as possible when the media tour touched down in Cotto's native Puerto Rico. No explanation for the eerie stage set was given, but we suspect that somebody has been watching too many vampire movies.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK

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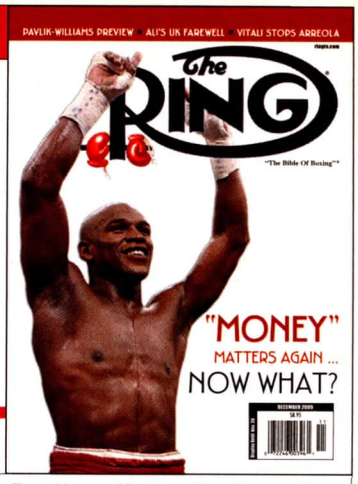

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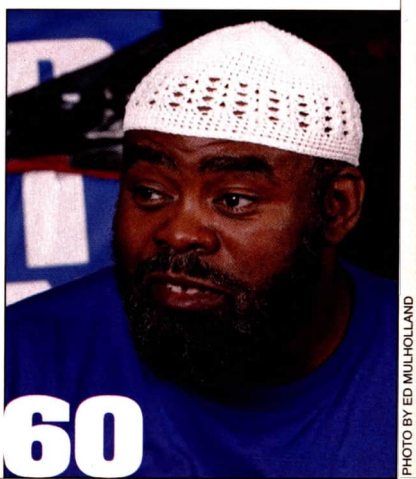

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

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Champions Are Forever Revisited

Almost 20 years after it was first released in 1990, the documentary *Champions Are Forever* has made a DVD comeback under the name, *Champions Forever: Ali—The Lost Interview* (Image Entertainment, 140 minutes). But although the additional 20 minutes of footage is being hyped as the *rai-son d'etre* for the re-release, those who already have a copy of the old version probably won't want to fork over $19.98 for what is being billed as "the definitive edition."

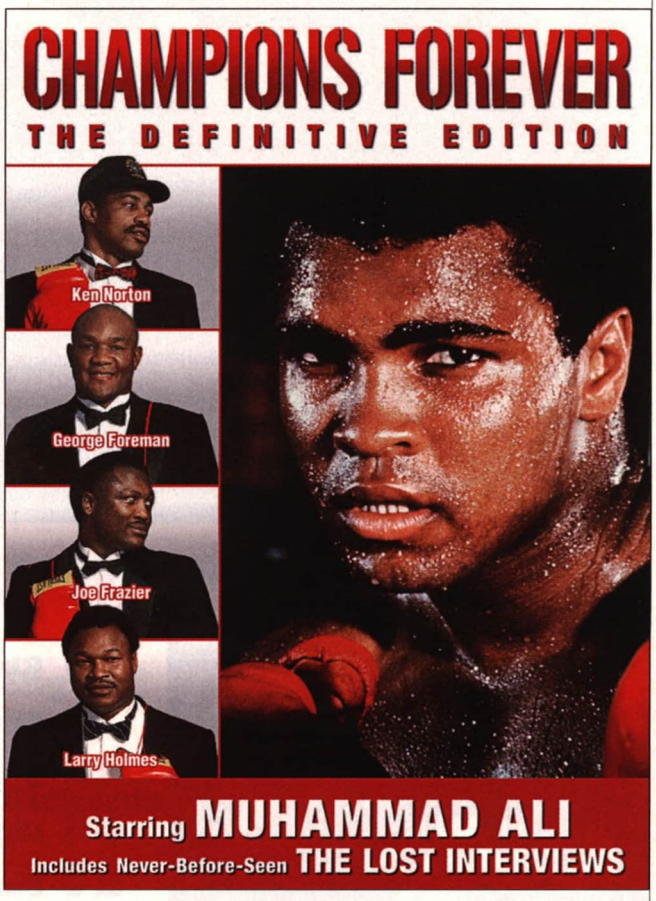
For those who never saw the original, however, it is well worth the price. For it is not the so-called "lost interview," which appears to be material edited out of the original, that makes the documentary worthwhile. It is instead the element that made it noteworthy in the first place: It brings together, for the first and last time, Joe Frazier, George Foreman, Ken Norton, Larry Holmes, and Ali for a group interview.

Blending fight footage, newsreels, and interviews, the documentary tells the story of Ali and his four most famous opponents and how their lives are forever intertwined because of what took place when they shared the ring together.

Even though Foreman and Holmes were still active in 1990, the documentary is a nostalgic look back to the late-1960s and '70s, an era now considered one of the greatest in heavyweight history. But if *Champions Are Forever* was originally a celebration of the recent past, almost two decades later it has taken on a melancholy air, shining a spotlight on the physical deterioration three of its stars have suffered since '90. Ali, his speech slurred, his movements slow and cumbersome, was already beginning to show acute signs of Parkinson's. But there was still a sparkle in his eyes and dose of mischievousness in many of his comments. And while his condition was unsettling, he was nowhere near the shuffling, shaking, speechless object of pity he is today.

Norton had already suffered the serious car crash that fractured his skull and broken numerous bones. But although he seemed almost fully recovered at the time, he has gradually declined since. Frazier, full of piss and vinegar in the 1990s, has suffered a series of ailments since then, including diabetes and a minor stroke.

There is also a bittersweet quality to seeing alive again many of the peripheral characters who are no longer with us. There's Archie Moore (working Foreman's corner in Zaire), Yank Durham and Milt Bailey (with Frazier in Manila), Jim Jacobs (interviewing a very young Ali), and the ubiquitous Bundini Brown (not only doing his usual syco-



phant routine, but also trying to prevent Angelo Dundee from stopping Ali's sad fight with Holmes).

Best of all is the informal dinner, hosted by baseball great Reggie Jackson, that ends the documentary. Jackson quizzes each about their careers during a fun and laughter-filled meal that features several humorous hold-me-back moments between Frazier and Ali.

As the dinner drew to a close, Jackson tried to wrap up everything into one tidy package by asking each what it meant to them to be considered a "champion forever." Frazier, Foreman, Holmes, and Norton all gave fairly predictable replies, but it was Ali, totally abandoning his trademark braggadocio and brashness, who gave the most insightful answer. Speaking in a hoarse whisper, he explained that there were five champions at the table and you can only have one champion at a time. Therefore, except for "maybe in the history books, you can't be a champion forever."

—Nigel Collins

Gatti And Arguello Updates

Although Arturo Gatti's family and friends remain skeptical, the second autopsy, which was carried out at his family's request, concluded that his death was indeed caused by hanging. According to the Quebec coroner who performed the second autopsy, there were no injuries to suggest that other people hanged Gatti.

Gatti's widow, Amanda Rodrigues, says she intends to sue the Brazilian state of Pernambuco for arresting her as the prime suspect in her husband's death. "I want people to know the truth," said Rodrigues. "I'm sick and tired of all these accusations."

Meanwhile, Alexis Arguello Jr. is convinced that his father, a three-division former titleholder and member of the International Boxing Hall of Fame, did not kill himself as the Nicaraguan government claims.

"This was not suicide," Arguello Jr. told Lisa Olson during an exclusive interview with FanHouse.com.

Olson suggested that perhaps the ex-boxer, who had been elected mayor of Managua in November 2008, was being "manipulated by nefarious, feuding political forces."

PHOTO BY MAYERLING GARCIA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Arguello's coffin is taken from the funeral home

"I once told my dad his political career would end in two ways," said Arguello Jr. "You'll be president or you'll end up dead."

Tony Thornton, 1959-2009

On August 30, while riding his motorcycle on Interstate 676 in Gloucester City, former super middleweight contender Tony "The Punching Postman" Thornton was clipped by a New Jersey Transit bus, which merged into his lane. The impact threw him against a wall, causing severe internal injuries. Thornton was admitted to Cooper University Hospital, where he contracted pneumonia and died on September 10. He was 49 years old.

A football and track star at Glassboro High School, Thornton took up boxing while attending West Chester University. He turned pro in June 1983 and went undefeated in the first 18 bouts of a career that lasted until 1995.

He never gave up his day-job as a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service in South Jersey, where he was beloved by the people on his route, many of who bought tickets to his fights from him. Two years after his last bout, Thornton finally stopped delivering mail when he was promoted to a supervisory position.

Thornton was an old-school pro, whose fighting philosophy was reflected in the kind of fights he liked to watch: "I don't want to see a boxing match," Tony once told me. "I want to see a blood-and-guts, hardcore fight. I want to see two guys standing there toe-to-toe and bang, try to rip each other's head off."

Although he seldom had an opponent willing to slug it out with him, Thornton always tried to rip the other guy's head off, anyway, and stopped 26 of the fighters he beat in an overall record of 37-7-1. Fans knew if Tony was headlining, there was going to be a real fight, which made him a popular attraction at Atlantic City casinos during the 1980s and early-'90s.

He failed in three tries to win a significant title, coming closest in September '92 when he traveled to Glasgow, Scotland, to challenge undefeated WBO super middleweight titleholder Chris Eubank. Thornton lost a unanimous decision in a close fight that might have gone in his favor outside of the UK.

In '93 he lost a decision to then-IBF super middle boss James Toney (who recently said Thornton had the best chin of anybody he ever fought). Then, in what turned out to be his final fight, Roy Jones, who had taken the 168-pound belt from Toney, stopped him.

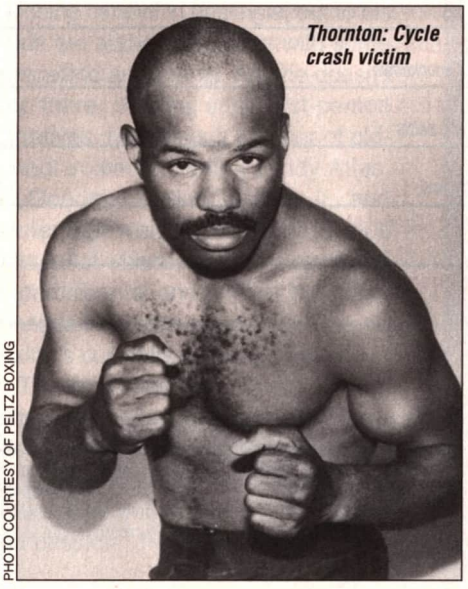


PHOTO COURTESY OF PELTZ BOXING

Thornton: Cycle crash victim

The world has lost a good fighter, but to everybody who knew him, Thornton was much more than that—he was a *real* man, a man of his word, a gentleman, an educated man, a family man, a friendly man, the sort of guy even his opponents liked and respected.

In the end, he was blindsided by a bus, a fatal blow he never saw coming.

—Nigel Collins

TV Fights of the Month

Compiled By Martin Mulcahey

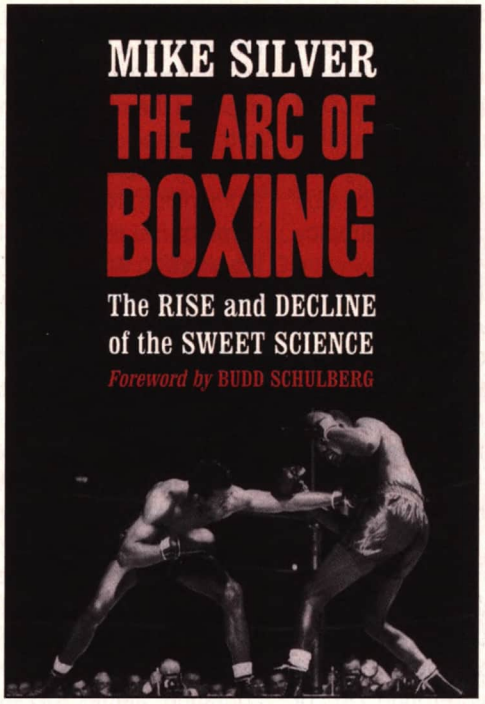
DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
08/27/09	David Rodela W 6 Gamalier Rodriguez *Youngster dealt well with a switch-hitting foe*	Versus	jl	C-	C	C
08/27/09	Abner Mares KO 6 Carlos Fulgencio *Li'l Abner carries a big punch*	Versus	b	B	C	C+
08/28/09	Tavoris Cloud W 12 Clinton Woods *This Cloud is filled with lightning bolts*	ESPN2	lh	B+	B+	B
08/28/09	Juan Urango KO 11 Randall Bailey *Urango gets up from vicious knockdown; Bailey cannot do the same*	ESPN2	jw	B	B+	B
09/11/09	Wilbert Uicab W 12 Alejandro Hernandez *Favorite enters two pounds overweight and loses fight down the stretch*	Telemundo	fl	C+	B-	C+
09/12/09	Z Gorres KO 6 Cruz Carbajal *Z zaps Carbajal to Zleep*	PPV	f	B-	C+	C+
09/12/09	Fernando Montiel Tech D 3 Alejandro Valdez *Both men floored in exciting clash that deserves a rematch*	PPV	jf	B+	B	B+
09/12/09	Donnie Nietes W 12 Manuel Vargas *Credit the judges for not being swayed by hometown fans*	PPV	s	B	B	B-
09/12/09	Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. KO 1 Jason LeHoulliers *Has Chavez Jr. already headlined more PPV's than his father?*	PPV	jm	C+	C	D
09/12/09	Juan Mercedes KO 6 Robert DaLuz *12-20-3 Robert DaLuz could be worst PPV foe ever*	PPV	jb	C	F	C
09/12/09	Roman Martinez KO 9 Feider Viloriar *Action fighters like Martinez usually have a short title reign*	PPV	jl	B+	C+	B-
09/12/09	Ivan Calderon Tech W 7 Rodel Mayol *Let's not see this duo butt heads a third time*	PPV	jf	A-	B+	C+
09/12/09	Andre Ward KO 3 Shelby Pudwill *Pudwill about as threatening as his name suggests*	Showtime	sm	B+	C-	C
09/12/09	Mikkel Kessler KO 4 Gusmyr Perdomo *The more Kessler wins, the better Calzaghe looks*	Showtime	sm	A-	C+	B-
09/15/09	Humberto Soto KO 2 Aristides Perez *Sloppy Soto looks for and finds early kayo*	TV Azteca	jb	A-	C+	C+
09/15/09	Simphiwe Nongqayi W 12 Jorge Arce *Nongqayi impressive in beating both Arce brothers*	TV Azteca	jb	A-	B	B
09/18/09	Chris Avalos KO 4 Giovanni Caro *Second straight spectacular kayo for Avalos on* ShoBox	Showtime	b	C	C+	B+
09/18/09	Guillermo Rigondeaux KO 3 Giovanni Andrade *Andrade soon finds soft spot*	ESPN2	jf	B-	C	F
09/19/09	Cornelius Lock KO 5 Orlando Cruz *Cocky prospect never recuperates from first-round knockdown*	PPV	jf	B-	B-	B
09/19/09	Michael Katsidis W 12 Vicente Escobedo *His face didn't look it, but Katsidis' defense is getting better*	PPV	l	B+	B	B
09/19/09	Chris John W 12 Rocky Juarez *Mohawked Juarez scalped by John's precision punches*	PPV	f	B+	B+	B-
09/19/09	Floyd Mayweather W 12 Juan Manuel Marquez *Only in boxing can two pounds equal $600,000*	PPV	w	B+	B	C+
09/26/09	Vitali Klitschko KO 10 Chris Arreola *Yes, size matters, especially when coupled with skill*	HBO	h	A-	B+	C+

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(RING championship fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Boxing Bookshelf



If you're a longtime boxing fan, you know the conventional wisdom is that the sport enjoyed two golden eras, the 1950s and 1980s. But for historian Mike Silver, it was these two eras that began what he perceives to be a long and steady decline in the game.

In his book, *The Arc of Boxing: The Rise and Decline of the Sweet Science* (McFarland & Company, 229 pages, hardcover, $55.00), Silver argues that boxing's true golden age was the three decades from the 1920s to the '40s, when masters like Tommy Loughren, Benny Leonard, Willie Pep, and Charley Burley fought. According to Silver, from the post war era onward, the sweetness began to erode and boxers started to lose the development of real science.

So what led to the decline? The advent of televised boxing, Silver believes, and the resultant demise of the once-thriving club show circuit where fighters plied their trade. When small club shows virtually disappeared, so too did a once thriving gym culture where boxers apprenticed under master trainers and learned defense, infighting, clinching, and bodypunching.

Forced to abandon the sport when they could no longer make a full-time living, these one-time sages of boxing took with them a body of fighting knowledge that nowadays remains known by only a handful of trainers.

Silver calls today's style of fighting offensively biased "speed boxing," and observes that contemporary fighters show little strategy and diversity in their game. A lack of activity and an obsession with undefeated records, with which to please television executives, has also led to the degeneration of talent.

Undefeated records are impressive marketing tools, but too many uncompetitive fights and high knockout ratios against inferior opponents have actually served to handicap today's young boxers in developing sophisticated skills en route to a title fight. So-called champions of the current era, writes Silver, hardly compare to someone like Archie Moore who had 177 fights before finally landing his title shot against Joey Maxim, 17 years after turning pro.

Moreover, as Silver reminds us, Moore won the linear belt, not one of the fractional belts that proliferated in the '80s courtesy of TV networks eager to broadcast bouts as title fights.

It would be easy to dismiss Silver as losing himself in nostalgia, but to his credit the author comes up with some compelling arguments. And he doesn't stop there. Utilizing short first-person narratives, he enlists a number of old-school voices including Teddy Atlas, Bill Goodman, Mike Cipriano Jr., and former lightweight champion Carlos Ortiz, all of whom dissect the sport and its participants, and critique the many changes that have led, they believe, to boxing's currently diminished state.

The book may be a lament, but the author clearly loves boxing. True aficionados, whether they ultimately agree with Silver or not, are sure to enjoy his book for its unmistakable knowledge and passion.

—Paul Salgado

Outside the Ropes

Although he intends to continue his quixotic attempt to regain the undisputed heavyweight championship, 47-year-old **Evander Holyfield** is also partnering with Global NES-Georgia to build a solar farm on 40 acres of his property in Fayette County. "I've never had a problem being lean," Holyfield told the Associated Press. "Now I'm a lean, green fighting machine. I'm pretty much going to do all I can to fight global warming" ... Former heavyweight champion **Mike Tyson** won a $1.2-million (plus interest) judgment in U.S. Bankruptcy Court. The case stems from Tyson's 2004 bout with **Danny Williams**, for which Tyson was supposed to get $7.2-million. But before the fight took place, co-promoter Straight-Out Promotions indicated it didn't have enough money to pay the full amount. In order to save the fight, obligation to pay Tyson was assigned to a Gibraltar corporation named Brearly, which later claimed it had no obligation to pay. In his ruling, Judge **Allan J. Gropper** wrote that Brearly was not what British promoter **Frank Warren** and his promotional vehicle Sports Network purported it to be, calling Brearly a "corporate shell, with no employees, capital or business, used as a facade concealing true facts" and that the "UK defendants are liable for the contractual obligations that they undertook in Brearly's name." A portion of any recovery will go to the IRS to pay off Tyson's tax debt ... **Mikkel Kessler**'s fourth-round TKO of **Gusmyr Perdomo** in Herning, Denmark, on September 12 attracted a remarkable 72 percent market share on Danish television ... Junior bantamweight **Nonito Donaire** was hospitalized in the Philippines due to a bout with dengue fever, which he most likely contracted from a mosquito bite ... Retired junior welterweight **Micky Ward**, 43, was acquitted of punching his wife's stepfather in the face. Ward's attorney claimed his client acted in self-defense ... In late-August, German promoter **Ahmet Oner** underwent successful surgery to remove a bullet from his leg. Two men ambushed the CEO of Arena Box-Promotions as he was leaving the office of a business partner in Hamburg. The men had waited for Oner behind his car, and when a security light exposed them, they opened fire and then fled ... According to the Associated Press, Las Vegas police investigating a shooting outside a roller-skating rink seized two handguns, ammunition, two bulletproof vests, and two cars from the home of **Floyd Mayweather**. One of the alleged victims in the shooting incident, 24-year-old **Quincey Williams**, told the police that Mayweather had threatened him 10 minutes before another man shot at his car as he drove away from the rink's parking lot. Although the car Williams was riding in and another vehicle in the parking lot were hit several times by bullets, nobody was hurt. "Whatever happened, if they say it had to do with Mr. Mayweather, they're mistaken," said the boxer's lawyer, **Richard Wright**. Police said they are seeking a suspect who might use the nickname "O.C." who is a "known associate" of Mayweather ... Bernalillo County (New Mexico) District Judge **Kenneth Martinez** ruled that **Johnny Tapia** is a habitual offender for violating his probation on a drug conviction. Being deemed a habitual offender carries a mandatory one-year prison sentence ... Junior middleweight contender **James Kirkland**, 25, who pleaded guilty to gun possession by a convicted felon, was sentenced to two years in prison ... Veteran Las Vegas boxing judge **Bill Graham**, 93, died on August 13 at Desert Springs Hospital ... **Dennis Dueltgen**, 58, who worked as operations manager for Main Events for more than 20 years, suffered a heartattack at his home in Paterson, New Jersey, on September 14, and died ... The body of Irish super middleweight prospect **Darren Sutherland**, 27, was discovered by his manager, **Frank Maloney**, on September 14. According to the British media, Sutherland was found hung. Maloney was so unhinged by the discovery that he was hospitalized. Sutherland's death came as a total shock to the boxing community. He had won a bronze medal for Ireland at the 2008 Olympics, was 4-0 (4) as a pro, and had a bout scheduled for October 16 ... **Rod Nazario**, the former business manager of **Manny Pacquiao** (1995-'05) died of lung cancer in Manila ... Former South African bantamweight champion **Simon "Tshipa" Skosana**, 51, died on September 15, following a short illness. Skosana tallied a 32-5 (13) pro record during a career that began in May 1979 and ended in November '99 ... Former heavyweight **Jimmy "Wildman" Harryman**, 76, died on August 21. A resident of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, Harryman was a fullback at the University of Washington and played professionally for the Calgary Chargers of the Canadian Football League. He launched a pro boxing career in 1959, and had a record of 9-3-1 (7) before retiring in '65.

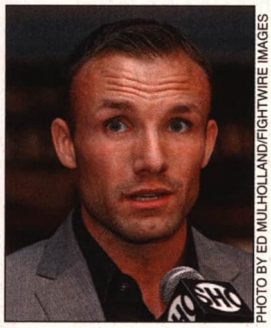


PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Kessler: Boffo TV ratings

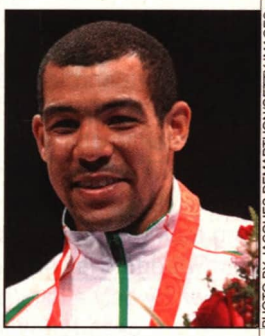


PHOTO BY JACQUES DEMARTHON/GETTY IMAGES

Sutherland: Shocking suicide

Quotable

"I hate losing. I don't have the heart to lose and that's why I was crying, because it really hurt."

—Heavyweight contender Chris Arreola, commenting on his prolonged sobbing fit following his TKO loss to Vitali Klitschko.

"I don't like closing my eyes. I don't like being on my own at the moment. I hear his voice. I hear myself speaking to him."

—Manager Frank Maloney, speaking to BBC Sports about his state of mind following the suicide of boxer Darren Sutherland.

[Ratings Analysis]

For Period Ended September 27, 2009

Heavyweights: John Ruiz (eighth last issue) exits due to inactivity, moving up Denis Boytsov (ninth last issue) and Alexander Dimitenko (10th last issue) one place each. Kevin Johnson debuts at 10.

Cruiserweights: No changes.

Light Heavyweights: Tavoris Cloud debuts at seven, replacing Clinton Woods, who comes out after Cloud beat him via unanimous decision.

Super Middleweights: No changes.

Middleweights: Matthew Macklin enters at six, after stopping Amin Asikainen (sixth last issue), who departs.

Junior Middleweights: James Kirkland (ninth last issue) received two years for violating parole and exits, which moves up Jamie Moore from 10 to nine. Alfredo Angulo enters at 10.

Welterweights: Floyd Mayweather made his triumphant return, re-entering at number two after beating Juan Manuel Marquez. Mayweather's inclusion bumps down everyone from two to eight one spot each, and forces out Zab Judah (eighth last issue).

Junior Welterweights: No changes.

Lightweights: Joel Casamayor (first last issue) comes out due to inactivity, and everyone ranked from two to 10 last issue moves up one spot each, making room for veteran David Diaz to re-enter the ratings at 10.

Junior Lightweights: No changes.

Featherweights: No changes.

Junior Featherweights: Daniel Ponce De Leon (fourth last issue) and Jhonny Gonzalez (ninth last issue) have each moved up to featherweight, creating room for Antonio Esclante to enter at nine and Rendall Munroe to debut at 10. The departures also enable Steve Molitor (fifth last issue) to move to four, and Toshiaki Nishioka to leap from seven to five. Ricardo Cordoba (eighth last issue) moves to seven, and Jeff Mathebula (10th last issue) jumps to eight.

Bantamweights: Nehomar Cermeno (eighth last issue) advances to seven, switching places with Abner Mares (seventh last issue) due to fighting a higher quality of opponents.

Junior Bantamweights: Z Gorres (fourth) departs because he can no longer make the junior bantam limit. Simphiwe Nongqayi's unanimous decision over Jorge Arce (fifth last issue) permits him to enter at four, while Arce departs after losing for the second time in his last three fights. Everyone from six to 10 last issue moves up one place each, and Marvin Sonsona enters at 10.

Flyweights: No changes.

Junior Flyweights: Brahim Asloum (seventh last issue) retires, moving up everyone from eight through 10 last issue one place each and allowing Yasutaka Kuroki to enter at 10.

Strawweights: No changes.

Pound-for pound: Floyd Mayweather re-enters at two, Shane Mosley (fifth last issue) jumps to three, dropping Juan Manuel Marquez (second last issue) to five. Mayweather's inclusion pushes down everyone rated from five to nine one place each, and forces out Paul Williams (10th last issue).

The RING®
"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

Pound-For-Pound

1. **Manny Pacquiao**
   Junior Welterweight
2. **Floyd Mayweather**
   Welterweight
3. **Shane Mosley**
   Welterweight
4. **Bernard Hopkins**
   Light Heavyweight
5. **Juan Manuel Marquez**
   Lightweight
6. **Israel Vazquez**
   Featherweight
7. **Rafael Marquez**
   Featherweight
8. **Nonito Donaire**
   Junior Bantamweight
9. **Miguel Cotto**
   Welterweight
10. **Celestino Caballero**
    Junior Featherweight

For weekly updated Ring ratings, go to **ringtv.com**

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended September 27, 2009

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

Fighters recognized as champions by THE RING are rated at the top of their division, with the top 10 contenders listed below.

Championship vacancies can be filled by winning a box-off between THE RING's number-one and number-two contenders, or, in certain instances, a box-off between our number-one and number-three contenders.

The only three occasions when a fighter will lose his championship status are when he retires, moves to another weight division, or is defeated in a championship bout.

THE RING Ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board, with the participation of THE RING Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world. To see the complete list of our panelists, click on "Ratings" at ringtv.com.

Records provided by boxrec.com.

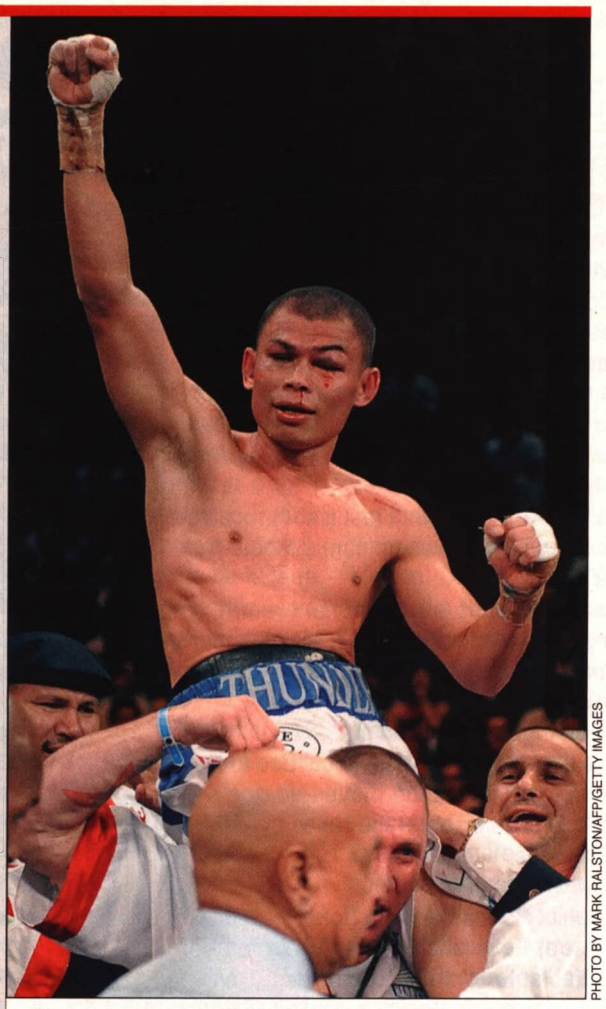


PHOTO BY MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Chris John maintains his number-one spot among the featherweights after surviving some late shaky moments in a rematch to beat Rocky Juarez

Heavyweights

Weight Unlimited

Champ: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
Ukraine 53-3 (47)

1. **VITALI KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine 38-2 (37)
2. **ALEXANDER POVETKIN**
Russia 17-0 (12)
3. **EDDIE CHAMBERS**
Philadelphia, PA 35-1 (18)
4. **RUSLAN CHAGAEV**
Uzbekistan 25-1-1 (17)
5. **NICOLAY VALUEV**
Russia 50-1 (34)
6. **CHRIS ARREOLA**
Riverside, CA 27-1 (24)
7. **DAVID HAYE**
England 22-1 (21)
8. **DENIS BOYTSOV**
Russia 25-0 (20)
9. **ALEXANDER DIMITRENKO**
Ukraine 29-1 (19)
10. **KEVIN JOHNSON**
Atlanta, GA 22-0-1 (9)

Jr. Middleweights

Weight Limit: 154 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **PAUL WILLIAMS**
Augusta, GA 37-1 (27)
2. **CORY SPINKS**
St. Louis, MO 37-5 (11)
3. **VERNO PHILLIPS**
Belize 42-12-1 (21)
4. **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
Argentina 44-1-2 (24)
5. **SERGIO MORA**
Los Angeles, CA 21-1-1 (5)
6. **SERGEI DZINZIRUK**
Ukraine 36-0 (22)
7. **KERMIT CINTRON**
Reading, PA 31-2-1 (27)
8. **DEANDRE LATIMORE**
St. Louis, MO 20-2 (16)
9. **JAMIE MOORE**
England 32-3 (23)
10. **ALFREDO ANGULO**
Mexico 16-1 (13)

Featherweights

Weight Limit: 126 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **CHRIS JOHN**
Indonesia 43-0-2 (22)
2. **STEVEN LUEVANO**
La Puente, CA 37-1-1 (15)
3. **CRISTOBAL CRUZ**
Mexico 39-11-1 (23)
4. **JORGE SOLIS**
Mexico 37-2-2 (27)
5. **ROCKY JUAREZ**
Houston, TX 28-5-1 (20)
6. **MARIO SANTIAGO**
Puerto Rico 19-1-1 (14)
7. **MARTIN HONORIO**
Mexico 25-4-1 (13)
8. **RYOL LI LEE**
Japan 13-1-1 (7)
9. **ELIO ROJAS**
Dominican Republic 21-1 (13)
10. **YURIORKIS GAMBOA**
Cuba 15-0 (13)

Jr. Featherweights

Weight Limit: 122 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **CELESTINO CABALLERO**
Panama 33-2 (23)
2. **JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ**
Puerto Rico 26-0 (24)
3. **POONSAWAT KRATINGAENGGYM**
Thailand 39-1 (28)
4. **STEVE MOLITOR**
Canada 30-1 (12)
5. **TOSHIAKI NISHIOKA**
Japan 34-4-3 (21)
6. **BERNARD DUNNE**
Ireland 28-2 (15)
7. **RICARDO CORDOBA**
Panama 34-2-2 (21)
8. **JEFF MATHEBULA**
South Africa 22-2-2 (12)
9. **ANTONIO ESCALANTE**
Mexico 21-2 (13)
10. **RENDALL MUNROE**
England 19-1 (8)

Bantamweights

Weight Limit: 118 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **HOZUMI HASEGAWA**
Japan 27-2 (11)
2. **ANSELMO MORENO**
Panama 26-1-1 (8)
3. **WLADIMIR SIDORENKO**
Ukraine 21-2-2 (7)
4. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
Ghana 27-1 (22)
5. **YONNHY PEREZ**
Colombia 19-0 (14)
6. **SILENCE MABUZA**
South Africa 22-3 (18)
7. **NEHOMAR CERMENO**
Venezuela 18-0 (10)
8. **ABNER MARES**
Mexico 19-0 (12)
9. **ROBERTO VASQUEZ**
Panama 27-3 (20)
10. **FERNANDO MONTIEL**
Mexico 39-2-2 (29)

Cruiserweights

Weight Limit: 200 pounds

Champ: TOMASZ ADAMEK
Poland 38-1 (26)

1. **STEVE CUNNINGHAM**
Philadelphia, PA 22-2 (11)
2. **KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK**
Poland 41-2-1 (31)
3. **GUILLERMO JONES**
Panama 36-3-2 (28)
4. **GIACOBBE FRAGOMENI**
Italy 26-1-1 (10)
5. **MARCO HUCK**
Yugoslavia 26-1 (20)
6. **FIRAT ARSLAN**
Germany 29-4-1 (18)
7. **VADIM TOKAREV**
Russia 26-1-1 (19)
8. **TROY ROSS**
Canada 22-1 (15)
9. **OLA AFOLABI**
England 14-1-3 (6)
10. **MATT GODFREY**
Providence, RI 20-1 (10)

Light Heavyweights

Weight Limit: 175 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
Philadelphia, PA 49-5-1 (32)
2. **CHAD DAWSON**
New Haven, CT 28-0 (17)
3. **GLEN JOHNSON**
Jamaica 49-12-2 (33)
4. **ZSOLT ERDEI**
Hungary 30-0 (17)
5. **ANTONIO TARVER**
Orlando, FL 27-6 (19)
6. **ROY JONES**
Pensacola, FL
7. **TAVORIS CLOUD**
Tallahassee, FL 20-0 (18)
8. **JEAN PASCAL**
Haiti 24-1 (16)
9. **ADRIAN DIACONU**
Romania 26-1 (15)
10. **YUSAF MACK**
Philadelphia, PA 28-2-2 (17)

Super Middleweights

Weight Limit: 168 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **MIKKEL KESSLER**
Denmark 42-1 (32)
2. **LUCIAN BUTE**
Romania 24-0 (19)
3. **CARL FROCH**
England 25-0 (21)
4. **LIBRADO ANDRADE**
Mexico 28-2 (21)
5. **SAKIO BIKA**
Cameroon 27-3-2 (17)
6. **ALLAN GREEN**
Tulsa, OK 28-1 (20)
7. **ROBERT STIEGLITZ**
Germany 36-2 (22)
8. **JERMAIN TAYLOR**
Little Rock, AR 28-3-1 (17)
9. **ANDRE WARD**
Oakland, CA 20-0 (13)
10. **KAROLY BALZSAY**
Hungary 21-1 (15)

Middleweights

Weight Limit: 160 pounds

Champ: KELLY PAVLIK
Youngstown, OH 35-1 (31)

1. **FELIX STURM**
Germany 33-2-1 (14)
2. **SEBASTIAN SYLVESTER**
Germany 32-3 (15)
3. **PAUL WILLIAMS**
Augusta, GA 37-1 (27)
4. **KHOREN GEVOR**
Armenia 30-4 (16)
5. **DAVID LOPEZ**
Mexico 38-12 (23)
6. **MATTHEW MACKLIN**
England 25-2 (18)
7. **ANTHONY MUNDINE**
Australia 36-3 (23)
8. **DANIEL GEALE**
Australia 21-1 (13)
9. **SEBASTIAN ZBIK**
Germany 27-0 (10)
10. **WINKY WRIGHT**
St. Petersburg, FL 51-5-1 (25)

Welterweights

Weight Limit: 147 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **SHANE MOSLEY**
Pomona, CA 46-5 (39)
2. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
Grand Rapids, MI 40-0 (25)
3. **MIGUEL COTTO**
Puerto Rico 34-1 (27)
4. **JOSHUA CLOTTEY**
Ghana 35-3 (20)
5. **ANTONIO MARGARITO**
Mexico 37-6 (27)
6. **ANDRE BERTO**
Winter Haven, FL 25-0 (19)
7. **CARLOS QUINTANA**
Puerto Rico 26-2 (20)
8. **LUIS COLLAZO**
Queens, NY 29-4 (14)
9. **ISAAC HLATSWAYO**
South Africa 29-1-1 (10)
10. **VYACHESLAV SENCHENKO**
Ukraine 29-0 (20)

Jr. Welterweights

Weight Limit: 140 pounds

Champ: MANNY PACQUIAO
Philippines 49-3-2 (37)

1. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
Palm Springs, CA 24-0 (11)
2. **RICKY HATTON**
England 45-2 (32)
3. **AMIR KHAN**
England 21-1 (15)
4. **DEVON ALEXANDER**
St. Louis, MO 19-0 (12)
5. **JUAN DIAZ**
Houston, TX 35-2 (17)
6. **PAUL MALIGNAGGI**
Brooklyn, NY 26-3 (5)
7. **JUAN URANGO**
Colombia 22-2-1 (17)
8. **KENDALL HOLT**
Paterson, NJ 25-3 (13)
9. **MARCOS MAIDANA**
Argentina 26-1 (25)
10. **ANDREAS KOTELNIK**
Ukraine 31-3-1 (13)

Lightweights

Weight Limit: 135 pounds

Champ: JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ
Mexico 50-5-1 (37)

1. **EDWIN VALERO**
Venezuela 25-0 (25)
2. **MICHAEL KATSIDIS**
Australia 26-2 (21)
3. **ROLANDO REYES**
Mexico 31-4-2 (20)
4. **ALI FUNEKA**
South Africa 30-2-2 (25)
5. **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ**
Mexico 25-3 (12)
6. **ANTHONY PETERSON**
Washington, DC 29-0 (19)
7. **PAULUS MOSES**
Namibia 25-0 (17)
8. **MIGUEL ACOSTA**
Venezuela 26-3-2 (20)
9. **ANTONIO DEMARCO**
Mexico 22-1-1 (16)
10. **DAVID DIAZ**
Chicago, IL 35-2-1 (17)

Jr. Lightweights

Weight Limit: 130 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **HUMBERTO SOTO**
Mexico 49-7-2 (32)
2. **ROBERT GUERRERO**
Gilroy, CA 24-1-1 (16)
3. **MZONKE FANA**
South Africa 29-4 (12)
4. **ROMAN MARTINEZ**
Puerto Rico 23-0-1 (14)
5. **MALCOLM KLASSEN**
South Africa 24-5-2 (15)
6. **CASSIUS BALOYI**
South Africa 36-4-1 (19)
7. **JORGE LINARES**
Venezuela 27-0 (18)
8. **NICKY COOK**
England 29-2 (16)
9. **HUMBERTO GUTIERREZ**
Mexico 26-1-1 (19)
10. **KEVIN MITCHELL**
England 29-0 (22)

Jr. Bantamweights

Weight Limit: 115 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **VIC DARCHINYAN**
Armenia 32-2-1 (26)
2. **ALEXANDER MUNOZ**
Venezuela 33-3 (27)
3. **NOBUO NASHIRO**
Japan 13-1 (8)
4. **SIMPHIWE NONGQAYI**
South Africa 16-0 (6)
5. **DIMITRI KIRILOV**
Russia 29-4-1 (9)
6. **KOHEI KONO**
Japan 23-4 (8)
7. **DAIKI KAMEDA**
Japan 14-1 (10)
8. **HUGO CAZARES**
Mexico 30-5-1 (22)
9. **NONITO DONAIRE**
Philippines 22-1 (14)
10. **MARVIN SONSONA**
Philippines 14-0 (12)

Flyweights

Weight Limit: 112 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **DAISUKE NAITO**
Japan 35-2-3 (22)
2. **PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM**
Thailand 73-3-1 (39)
3. **DENKAOSAN KAOVICHIT**
Thailand 47-1-1 (20)
4. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
Argentina 30-0-2 (19)
5. **TAKEFUMI SAKATA**
Japan 34-5-2 (15)
6. **KOKI KAMEDA**
Japan 21-0 (14)
7. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
South Africa 23-2 (16)
8. **JULIO CESAR MIRANDA**
Mexico 29-4-1 (22)
9. **LUIS CONCEPCION**
Panama 18-1 (13)
10. **ZOLANI TETE**
South Africa 11-0 (10)

Jr. Flyweights

Weight Limit: 108 pounds

Champ: IVAN CALDERON
Puerto Rico 33-0-1 (6)

1. **BRIAN VILORIA**
Waipahu, HI 26-2 (15)
2. **EDGAR SOSA**
Mexico 37-5 (21)
3. **GIOVANNI SEGURA**
Mexico 21-1-1 (17)
4. **ULISES SOLIS**
Mexico 29-2-2 (20)
5. **CESAR CANCHILA**
Colombia 28-2 (22)
6. **OMAR NINO**
Mexico 28-3-1 (11)
7. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
Argentina 20-1 (10)
8. **RODEL MAYOL**
Philippines 25-4-1 (19)
9. **JUANITO RUBILLAR**
Philippines 47-13-7 (23)
10. **YASUTAKA KUROKI**
Japan 21-3-1 (14)

Strawweights

Weight Limit: 105 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
Nicaragua 24-0 (20)
2. **RAUL GARCIA**
Mexico 27-0-1 (16)
3. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
Thailand 31-0 (12)
4. **NKOSINATHI JOYI**
South Africa 20-0 (15)
5. **MILAN MELINDO**
Philippines 18-0 (5)
6. **DONNIE NIETES**
Philippines 25-1-3 (14)
7. **FLORANTE CONDES**
Philippines 23-5-1 (20)
8. **JUAN PALACIOS**
Nicaragua 26-2 (21)
9. **MUHAMMAD RACHMAN**
Indonesia 62-8-5 (31)
10. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
Japan 23-4 (9)

Ryan Out Loud

By Jeff Ryan

Huh?

Is it just me? Or did you, too, think that some of the headlines boxing was generating in late summer were rather strange? For this columnist to be taken aback by anything that goes on in the sport, especially after covering the beat for over a quarter of a century, is pretty unusual. But one head-scratcher after another had me, well, scratching my head. (My scalp is as red as an Arizona Cardinals home jersey.) As legendary football coach Vince Lombardi yelled to his Green Bay Packers from the sideline in that famous film clip, "What the hell is going on out there?!"

Consider:

1. Floyd Mayweather takes offense at Shane Mosley's trash talk: Oh, give me a break! "Sugar" Shane had the smarts, chutzpah, and sense of showmanship to jump up into the ring after Mayweather's pasting of Juan Manuel Marquez, interrupt the interview, and issue an on-the-spot challenge to the victor. Mayweather's adviser, Leonard Ellerbe, called it "a cowardly, desperate move," while "Pretty Boy" added, "When it's his time to shine, I don't get in the ring, grab the mic, and get in the way."

Lighten up, you weenies. Mosley wasn't acting like Kanye West. He was channeling Muhammad Ali, Hulk Hogan, Bobby Riggs, or anyone else who ever realized that behaving rudely, putting your mouth in overdrive, inserting yourself into somebody else's moment, and attempting to steal the attention is a great way to pique interest and sell tickets to a future showdown. You want manners, Floyd? Then put on your white shorts and head over to Wimbledon.

PHOTO BY TOM HOGAN/GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS

Mosley gets in Mayweather's face

PHOTO BY PAVEL TEREKHOV

Arreola nixes beer for Vitali

2. Chris Arreola bans beer from his training table: Say it ain't so! Chris Arreola, this Bud's *not* for you?

While preparing for his matchup with Vitali Klitschko, Arreola informed us that his two-a-day workouts (which included morning training, cardio, core work, and weight lifting for the first time) were being fueled by vegetables, chicken, and fish, and that he had completely given up his beloved Corona beer. Rumor has it that the Corona bottling plant had to lay off 10 percent of its workforce for the duration of Arreola's training camp.

The Californian's dietary about-face may have been good for his physical conditioning, but it was terrible for his image. He's a guy we can't help but root for because he always looks like John Q. Chublic when he takes off his robe and jiggles into battle. "The Nightmare" has been a nutritionist's nightmare, weighing 255 against Jameel McCline earlier this year and 258½ vs. Israel Carlos Garcia in 2008. He's about as rock-hard as a bag of marshmallows, but, hey, the same can be said about a large segment of the Corona-gulping, Dorito-chomping, onion rings-belching minions who watch him.

Forget about rappin' Roy Jones. Arreola has always been boxing's true hip-hop fighter: One whose hips are the product of hops. Let's hope he turns to Pringles and not Pilates after this.

3. Juan Manuel Marquez samples a new sports drink: At the risk of being accused of yellow journalism, allow me

PHOTO BY TOM HOGAN/GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS

Hey, Oscar, can you believe they fell for the pee stunt?

Personal Perceptions:

The last word on everything from a giant to a dodger:

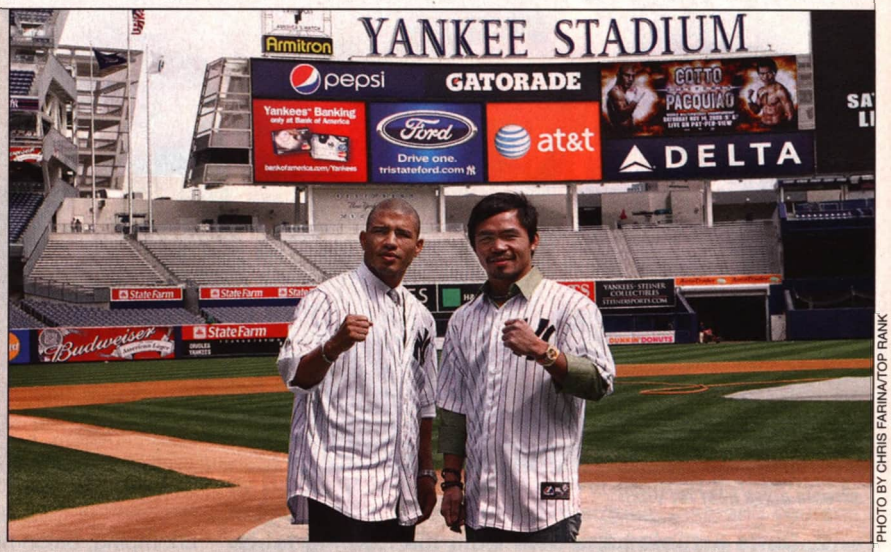


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK

The Cotto-Pacquiao media junket invades the Bronx

• Lou Duva has been training 6'7", 260-pound Olympic super heavyweight silver medalist Zhang Zhilei, of China. If things don't work out for Zhang in the fight game, maybe the walking skyscraper can team up with the Klitschko Brothers to form one of the more intimidating frontcourts in NBA history.

• So big mouth Mayweather says the Ultimate Fighting Championship is an outlet for "white boys who couldn't make it in boxing," eh? Well, you know what? He's right.

• Women's fisticuffs have been approved for the 2012 Olympics in London. Presumably, the sport will suffer from the same problems that plague the men's five-ring circus: inconsistent scoring, rules that only serve to illustrate how boring the amateur game is in comparison to the pros, and headgear that turns every competitor into a faceless robot. Women's boxing has trouble creating potential stars as it is, and hiding the looks of some newcomer who's talented *and* physically attractive won't help the situation.

• Nick Charles, get well soon.

• The controversy, unanswered questions, and back-and-forth allegations surrounding the death of Arturo Gatti are getting awfully ugly. One wonders how long it will be before "Thunder" can rest in true peace.

• Madison Avenue is stuck in the same old mindset if it's *Evander Holyfield*—yes, 47-year-old, 16-years-past-his-prime Holyfield—who's starring in Taco Bell's latest ad campaign. The saddest part is that the ad execs that insisted "The Real Deal" be featured in the commercial probably think he's still heavyweight champ.

• After bringing Pacquiao and Cotto to the new Yankee Stadium for a press conference to hype their battle, promoter Bob Arum promised that the big Bronx ballpark will host a major fight in 2010. Now, *that's* something to anxiously anticipate. Take me out to the brawl game; take me out with the crowd. Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack, I don't care who ends up on his back.

• New York Mets outfielder Gary Sheffield says he plans to train in the offseason with middleweight contender Winky Wright. Good. If there's one thing Sheffield needs, it would be help with his defense. And speaking of The Big D …

• Mayweather's style isn't always fun to watch. But if we're going to lament the fact that slipping and blocking punches are dying arts, then maybe we ought to be more appreciative of a guy who excels at them.

to discuss wiz kid Marquez and his habit of drinking his own urine. We first learned about this on the HBO *24/7* series that helped hype the Mayweather fight. Not counting the obvious complete revulsion, my initial reaction was this: Doesn't Gatorade make enough flavors to suit this guy?

We always knew Marquez was full of piss and vinegar, but this was ridiculous. On the bright side, at least his one-sided defeat should keep this from becoming a trend. Nobody else will be anxious to take such a leak of faith if they don't have proof that it works. The last thing we need, after all, are fans urging on their favorite combatants with cries of, "Urine the home stretch!" Or a Panama Lewis-type in the corner telling his assistant, "No, give me the other bottle. The one with the *special* lemonade that I mixed."

4. Ali's Irish eyes are smiling: Muhammad Ali returned to his roots recently, and the shocking part was that those roots had potatoes attached to them.

"The Greatest" traveled to Ireland, specifically Ennis in County Clare, where he met some distant relatives and visited the home of Abe Grady, his great-grandfather. Grady, whose granddaughter was Ali's mother, Odessa Lee Grady, immigrated to the United States in 1860 and married a freed slave. Genealogists discovered Ali's Irish heritage six years ago.

Who'd have thought it? My goodness, if the world had only known. Think of all the things that would have been different. Ali would have been the grand marshal of who knows how many St. Patrick's Day parades. When he fought Al "Blue" Lewis on "The Emerald Isle" in 1972, the event could have been trumpeted as the homecoming of a native son. Ali could have worn a tam-o'-shanter into the ring and his trademark "Ali Shuffle" could have been replaced by an Irish step dance for the occasion.

After Sonny Liston's liniment got into Ali's face and almost cost him his try for the heavyweight title, the headline

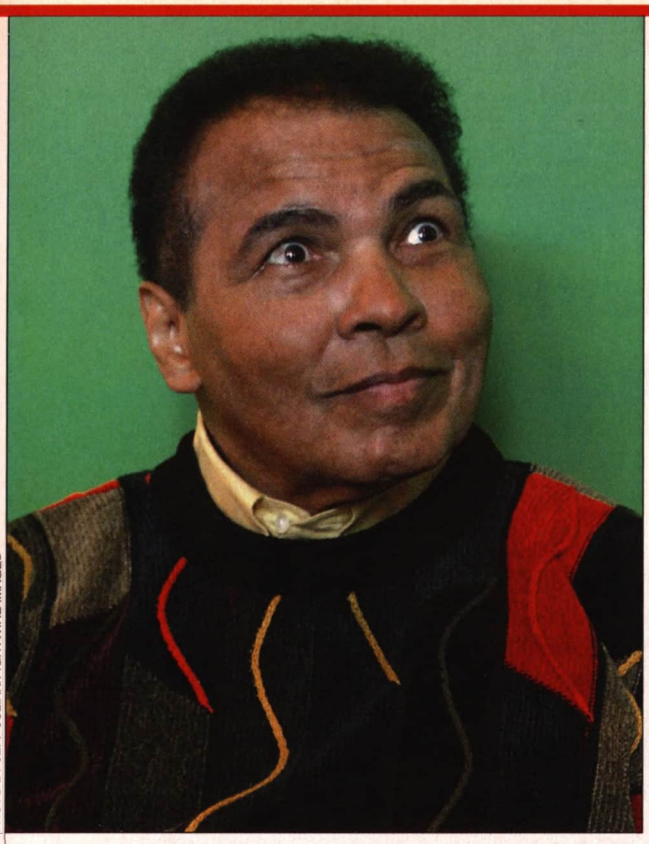


PHOTO BY JEFF JULIAN/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Who knew he was Irish?

the next day could have read, "When Irish Eyes Are Burning." If we'd known his two fights with Jerry Quarry were actually battles between a pair of feisty Irishmen, they could have been dubbed, "The Shamrock Shootouts." And opponents Ali derisively nicknamed "The Big Ugly Bear," or "The Gorilla," or "The Mummy," or "The Acorn" could have retaliated by calling Ali "The Leprechaun."

Ali the Irishman. Imagine that. No wonder he was always so great at Dublin up on the jab.

5. Manny Pacquiao speaks a little too candidly: On the surface, it didn't seem like such a big deal. "Pac Man," who had yet to begin training for his showdown with Miguel Cotto, remarked during the press tour, "If Cotto and me fought today, I'd lose."

Hey, we like it that fighters are often brutally frank. It's what makes boxing a dream beat for a reporter. But that kind of talk, coming from a guy atop the pound-for-pound ratings, makes me somewhat uncomfortable. It reminded me of a somber Ali, prior to his second battle with Ken Norton, saying to Howard Cosell, "If I lose … " *Ali* talking about losing? Trainers aren't supposed to use the word "tired" in the corner (even if referring to the opponent) because of the psychological impact it can have on their warriors, and the "L" word isn't supposed to ever leave a boxer's lips for exactly the same reason.

Ali went on to barely scratch out a split decision over Norton in that rematch, and then later struggled again while winning a controversial rubber match. Was there any direct connection between the uncharacteristic admission of vulnerability and the close calls? Who knows? But it's something to think about.

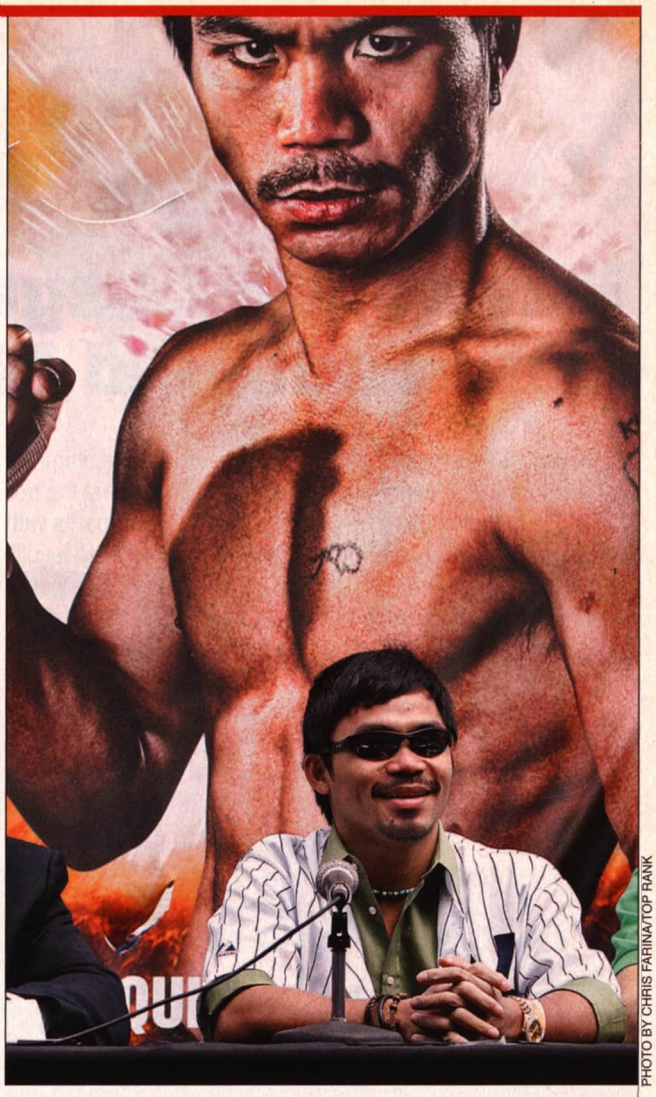


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK

Manny can be disarmingly honest

6. Mayweather has more money woes: "Pretty Boy" has reportedly paid that $5.6-million in back taxes to the IRS, but now we're learning that JP Morgan Chase is suing Mayweather for the $167,000 the bank claims he didn't pay on his car loan. (In January, the fighter's $528,000 Mercedes Maybach 57S was repossessed.) This latest development in Mayweather's *vida loca* raises a few questions.

First, are there really cars out there that cost half-a-million bucks? Can we presume they run on Dom Perignon, parallel park themselves, and go from zero to 60 in one-tenth of a second? Second, is the repo man they send to pick up a vehicle that costly the same dirty guy with a rusty tow truck who comes to take back one of our cars? Or does this man wear a tuxedo and white gloves and carry a gold-plated tire iron? And third, with all the money he's earned in his career, why would Mayweather need to finance a car purchase? Heck, he could probably bail out the Big Three automakers with just the dough he pocketed from the Oscar De La Hoya and Ricky Hatton bouts. ■

By Ivan Goldman

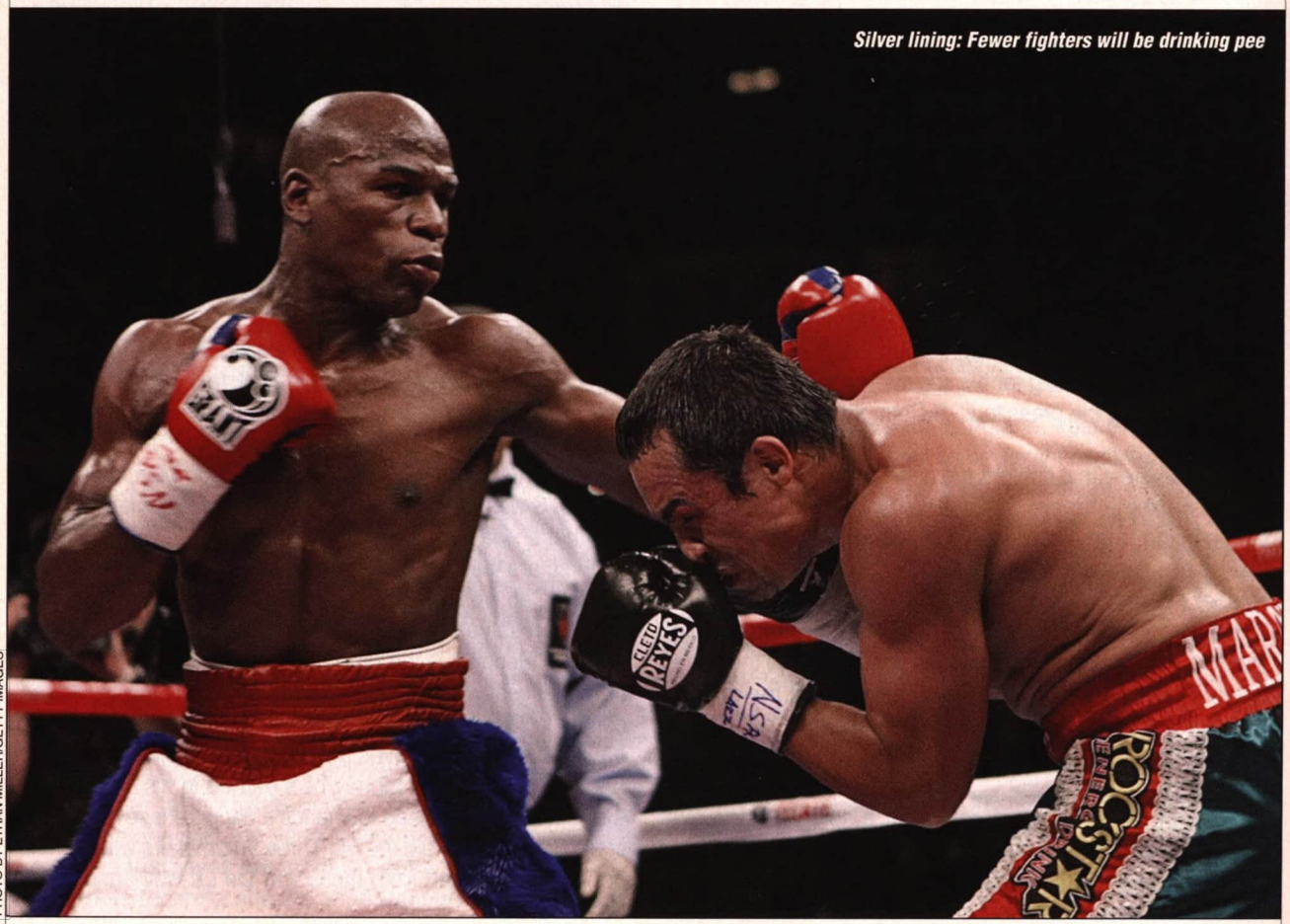
Mayweather Legacy: He Could Manhandle Old Munchkins

A pair of fast-buck artists got six months in the slammer a while back for enticing homeless men to beat the hell out of each other on camera. Paying participants with booze and small change, the two creeps sold the grisly results in a video titled *Bum Fights*. I was reminded of this as I watched 36-year-old Juan Manuel Marquez do what he could against Floyd Mayweather, who competes two weight classes above him.

Yes, offer them what they want, and jerks will buy sadistic videos, desperate alcoholics will knock each other's teeth out, and lightweight Marquez with a family to support will, at the tail end of his career, match himself against welterweight Mayweather.

One good thing about the outcome: now it's even less likely that fighters will line up to drink their own urine. Imagine the fallout if Marquez's stomach-turning practice, recorded so graphically on HBO's *24/7*, were somehow proved sound. Marquez impressed me with his resolve, but I figured science should weigh in on this, so I queried Professor Richard Goldberg, a physician who's taught for years at the University of Southern California School of Medicine. Goldberg called the nauseating tactic a "quack remedy" that has no scientific basis.

Urine, he explained, has no magic qualities. It's "an accumulation of waste products and metabolites," he said, likening metabolites to ashes left from a fire. "Eating is a form of



Silver lining: Fewer fighters will be drinking pee

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Mayweather made a mockery of weigh-in

combustion. The nutrients have all been metabolized by the time it gets to the kidneys, so what's left is of no nutritional value. That's why your body throws it out," he said.

In other words, if you're looking to put nutrients into your body, find yourself some fresh ones, not leftover waste products. Down through history various kooks and self-styled healers have claimed that urine imparts medicinal and even cosmetic properties—just like snake oil. You can also find people who wholeheartedly endorse the Flat Earth Society.

We shouldn't be surprised when fighters, who have so much at stake in that ring, turn to quacks, con artists, and foolish regimens. One of the duties of a good fight team is to keep it real, and in that respect Marquez' people let him down.

Other thoughts on Mayweather-Marquez:

• That was an ugly fast one Mayweather pulled when he came in two pounds over the agreed weight of 144. He didn't have the look of a fighter who'd sincerely tried to make the weight. He looked like a liar who schemed from the outset to come in at his best weight while hoping his opponent would beef himself up with useless pounds.

PHOTO BY MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Nacho or Yoda?

• Under ordinary circumstances you should give a victorious fighter at least a few moments to bask in the limelight. But Shane Mosley has been chasing Mayweather for nearly a decade. While calling himself the greatest fighter in the world, "Money" (he appears to have shed the "Pretty Boy" moniker) has worked mightily to keep his stars and Mosley's at opposite ends of the universe. So naturally he was terribly disturbed to see Sugar Shane not only in the same galaxy, but also in the very same ring.

But no matter what quick-handed Mosley does to try to smoke him out, don't expect Mayweather to take him on until he's convinced that his nemesis, who turned 38 in September, has at last grown old.

• Once again lightning-quick Mayweather showed himself to be, even after a layoff of nearly two years, the most talented fighter out there. No mistakes. But the best fighter? Of course not. He's ducked so many challenges that it's a wonder he doesn't quack. And he very rarely throws more than one or two punches at a time. A simple double jab followed by a right would be way beyond his tolerance for risk. Ask him about any of this and he pretends you're making it all up.

• Nacho Beristain came off on *24/7* as not just a trainer, but as a kind of oracle, pacing around the ropes dispensing wisdom like the brainy little creature who taught Luke Skywalker how to be a Jedi knight.

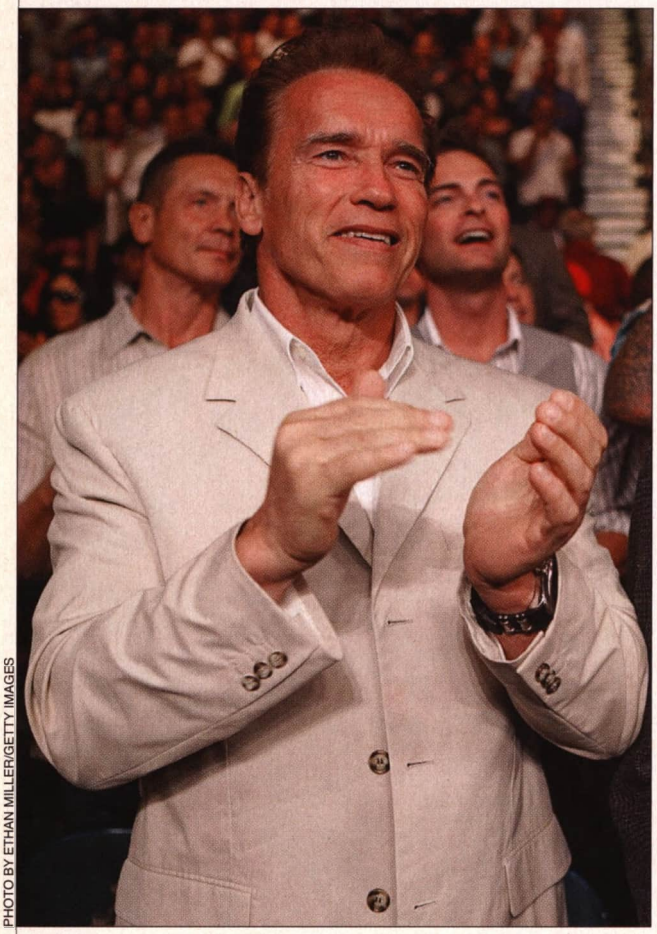


PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Did Arnold pay for his ticket this time?

• Each time bigmouthed Mayweather rolls over a hapless opponent, I relive that terrible moment when I learned the truth about the tooth fairy.

• Clearly the Mayweather clan and the crew of *24/7* should part for good. Roger, Junior, and Senior have said what they have to say, and they shouldn't be asked to say it again every time Junior needs to go out and raise a few more million.

Stacked Deck In Texas: Were any of us really surprised that Houston's Juan Diaz won a unanimous decision in Houston over New Yorker Paul Maglinaggi? I doubt it. But TV talkers and boxing scribes were right to raise a stink. It was a close fight Maglinaggi may have won, and the day must never come when we're too tired to demand justice.

A part of Maglinaggi knew before he entered the ring that he couldn't get a fair shake in Lone Star country, but if he didn't shove that understanding to a backburner, he'd have been unable to train properly. He deserves much credit for going in there in top form and fighting such a smart, determined fight. Diaz merits respect as well because it takes two fighters to make a fine show, which is what we saw.

Russell Rejected: After going nearly a year with no executive officer, the California commission was cracking apart as we went to press. Referee and retired detective Pat Russell, the commissioners' unanimous choice to fill the crucial office, was flatly rejected by the clerks in green eyeshades. The Consumer Affairs Department, a layered bureaucracy that controls the referees, inspectors, judges, and others who supervise boxing matches, though much respected around the boxing community, apparently consider Russell, a kind of loose cannon.

Commissioner John Frierson said there are no other qualified candidates. It looks like the search will have to start all over again. Outraged commission chairman Timothy Noonan abruptly resigned, and another commissioner was leaving under fire also.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger pays basically no attention to boxing governance, though he's accepted choice free fight tickets arranged by a commissioner on at least one occasion. After he got wind that the *Los Angeles Times* was looking into freebies to him and others, the guv fired off a stern letter to commissioners warning them against such conduct in the future. Were Shakespeare still around, Schwarzenegger's the kind of guy he'd stick into one of his tragedies for comic relief.

It's a pretty safe bet no one will pay much attention to the disintegrating situation until boxers start dying from it. And maybe not even then.

Futch: To Jeff Ryan for his interview of Mosley in the October 2009 issue of THE RING. I haven't seen anybody go after Mosley for his steroid use armed with such factual detail and ferocity. Contrary to what some people think, most boxing

Somehow, Fitzgerald thought Escobedo won!

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

writers like fighters. So we don't enjoy staying on top of them for their misdeeds, which makes it an even tougher chore. But sometimes it just has to be done. Bulldog Ryan showed respect for Sugar Shane's many accomplishments and none for his terrible decision to enhance his chances with chemicals back in 2003.

Magoo One: To Texas judge Gale Van Hoy who scored it 118-110 Juan Diaz. Fittingly it was another New Yorker, the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who declared, "You are entitled to your own opinion, but not your own facts." Van Hoy ignored the facts.

Magoo Two: To referee Laurence (let's call him "Tex") Cole. Diaz started throwing low the first minute of the fight. Not a peep from Cole, who did manage to see Maglinaggi's retaliatory elbows and forearms.

Magoo Three: Mike Fitzgerald's 116-112 score for Vicente Escobedo over Michael Katsidis is arguably the least defensible score of the year. Escobedo deserves credit for hanging in there. He's a worthy opponent, but he didn't come close to beating heavy-handed Katsidis. Fortunately Robert Hoyle and Duane Ford saw it correctly, giving Katsidis a split decision.

Magoo Four: Slick Chris John baffled poor Rocky Juarez all night (that is, until the last minute of the fight, when Juarez almost turned it around). Glen Hamada's score of only 114-113 for John was way off the mark.

Magoo Five: To the editors who came up with the brainy idea of packing Wladimir Klitschko's RING belt in a protective gun case. As I carried it toward the Staples Center to present Klitschko his belt, an LAPD car pulled up. One cop kept an eye on me while the other consulted the manual to see whether it's okay to shoot an old white guy carrying a gun case in downtown L.A. I managed to slip into the gathering of fans before he found the answer. ■

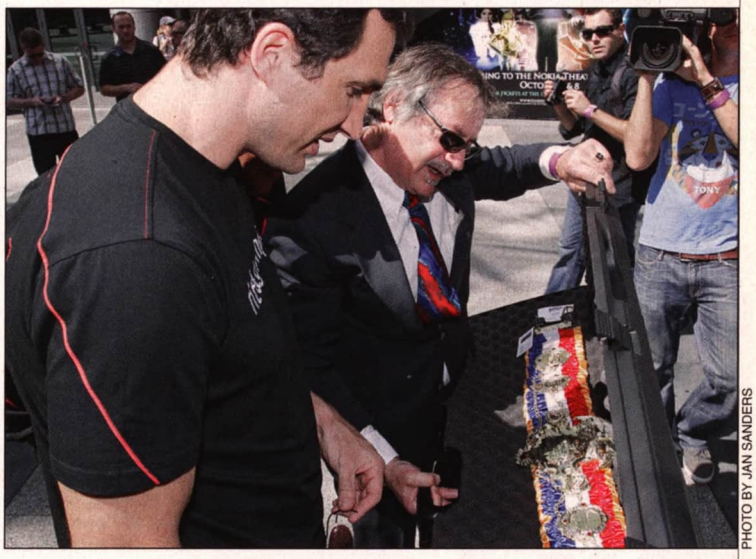


PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS

Goldman eluded cops to deliver Waldimir's RING belt

[Camera Clicks]

PHOTO BY SANDRA MU/GETTY IMAGES

Sugar Ray Leonard always knew all those years of posing for staredown photos would someday come in handy. On a recent trip to New Zealand, Leonard exchanged a "Hongi," the traditional Maori greeting, with Pahu Muru. And in case you're wondering, the referee ruled it an intentional clash of heads, but neither was cut.

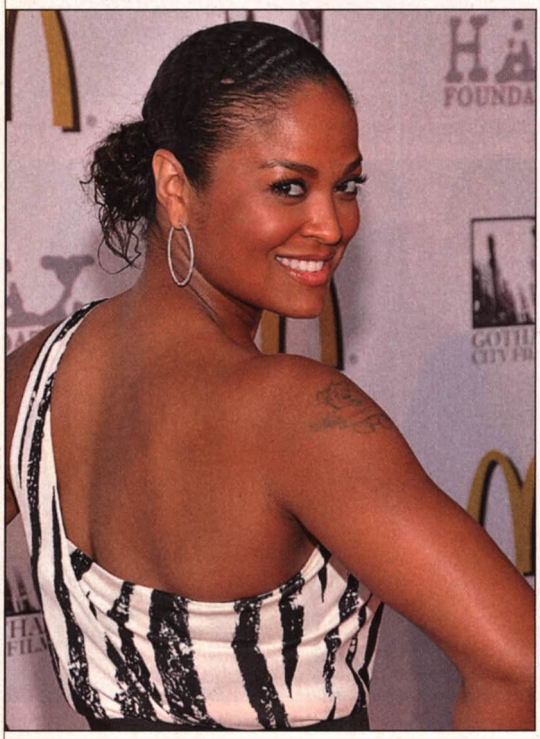


PHOTO BY DR. BILLY INGRAM/GETTY IMAGES

More than two years removed from her last bout, it appears Laila Ali got out of the fight game every bit as "pretty," to use her father's favorite adjective, as she was when she started. The former pound-for-pound queen struck this glamorous pose at the Pyramid of Success Awards in Los Angeles in September, where Laila was honored along with Paul Pierce, Dick Vitali, Jim Skinner, and Rod Smith.

PHOTO BY STEVE SAMOYEDNY/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Riding that fine line between spirituality and egomania, Ronald Hearns drops to his knees and prays while wearing a warm-up jacket declaring himself "The Chosen One." He was at least a little more "chosen" than journeyman Patrick Thompson, whom Hearns defeated via unanimous decision in August in his first fight back after an upset loss to Harry Joe Yorgey.

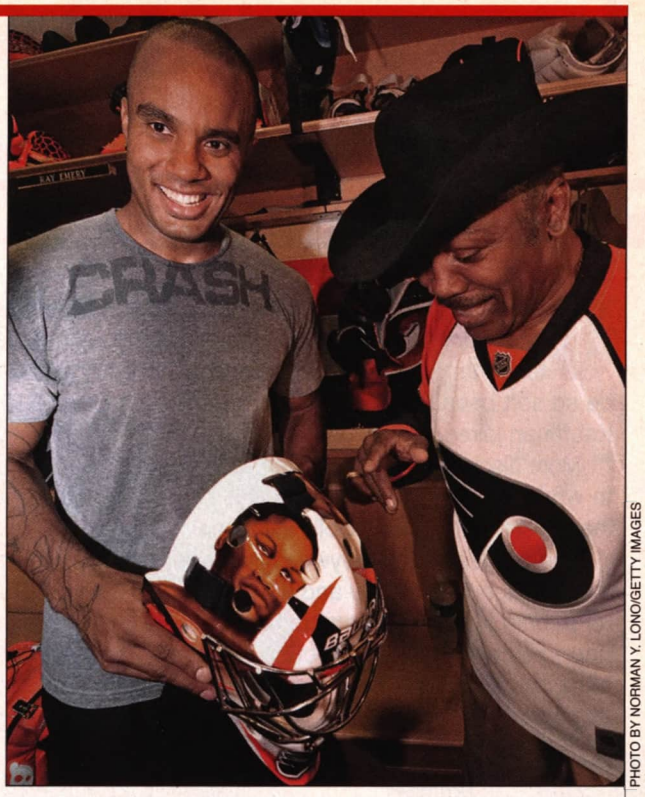


PHOTO BY NORMAN Y. LONO/GETTY IMAGES

Hasn't Joe Frazier taken enough shots? Apparently Philadelphia Flyers goalie Ray Emery doesn't think so, so he put the Philly sports icon on his helmet, in a prime spot for taking a few pucks to the chin. Maybe "Smokin' Joe" will be a good luck charm, since the Flyers haven't won a Stanley Cup since 1975, when the "Broad Street Bullies" ruled the NHL and Frazier was pushing Muhammad Ali to the limit in Manila.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK

Forget that big dude who fought Oscar De La Hoya on ABC recently; this is the real *Manny Shaquiao. And this version not only beat De La Hoya in the ring, but he's probably a better free-throw shooter than the other one. The only thing he has to worry about now is whether Miguel Cotto can master the Hack-A-Pac strategy.*

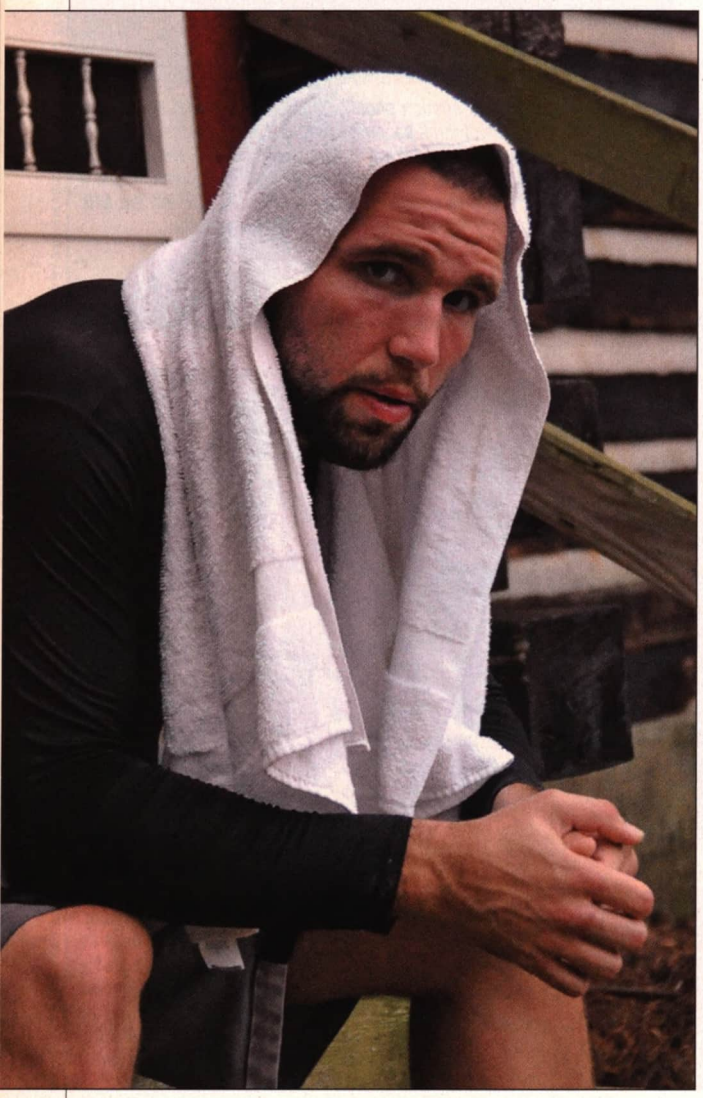
By Don Stewart
PHOTOS BY JEFF JULIAN/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Travis Kauffman Heavyweight

On a lazy afternoon in August, Travis Kauffman sits and wonders what might have been if he had listened to his father all those years. "My body wouldn't be so soft because of all the loose skin from being 310," Kauffman jokes.

More disciplined and attentive these days, Kauffman goes to work at a lean 225 pounds. But around his waistline, there's still plenty of symbolic evidence of his growth.

The 24-year-old heavyweight prospect has risen from the ashes, both mentally and physically. For the most part, he's come to grips with an emotional childhood marked by depression, maternal rejection, drug use, and criminal behavior. He's also shed the early-adulthood immaturity that nearly wrecked his life and career.



"I always told people that the big issue with Travis was discipline," said Marshall Kauffman, Travis' father, trainer, and manager. "That's not an issue now."

As a result, Travis, 18-0 (15), is rising in a shallow pool of U.S. heavyweight talent. He's a 6'3" boxer-brawler with better-than-average power, quick hands, a crowd-pleasing style, and the backing of high-powered advisor Al Haymon. He turned pro with plenty of amateur experience, and has developed by sparring top heavyweights such as Eddie Chambers, Chris Arreola, Hasim Rahman, and Oleg Maskaev.

And, let's be honest, the fact that he's white and American doesn't hurt his marketability.

"He had a good amateur background; that's always important," said Arreola's trainer, Henry Ramirez. "I think he has a ton of potential. Good hand speed. He has a great understanding of the fundamentals.

"We'll see how he progresses as he moves along. He's only 24. A lot of good heavyweights don't really mature until their late-20s, early-30s."

As this issue went to press, Kauffman was slated for his biggest test as a pro: a main event with Tony Grano, 15-1-1 (12), September 18 on Showtime's *ShoBox: The New Generation*. To prepare, Kauffman traveled 30 miles outside his hometown of Reading, Pennsylvania, to Muhammad Ali's former training camp at Deer Lake.

The choice of venue was a statement. If Kauffman proves worthy of training at the Ali Camp, and he believes he is, he'll wind up being the biggest thing to come out of Reading since the famed railroad.

"There's no place like here, no place like the Ali Camp," Kauffman said, sitting on the porch in front of the old kitchen. "You sit here and think of all the people who have been on these grounds. Just to be able to walk on the same ground as the greatest of all time, that's an opportunity in

(Continued on Page 108)

Pro Record

2006		
Jan. 26	Jerome Boyer, Glen Burnie, MD	KO 2
Feb. 17	Benny Bland, Reading, PA	KO 1
March 18	Robert Bell, Atlantic City, NJ	KO 1
March 31	Mike Miller, Lancaster, PA	W 4
May 12	David Cleage, Reading	W 6
Aug. 12	James McCloskey, Las Vegas, NV	KO 1
Sept. 9	Allen Prescott, Reading	KO 2
2007		
March 10	Joe Stofle, Reading	KO 3
March 30	Kevin Hood, Phoenixville, PA	KO 2
April 19	Dan Whetzel, Glen Burnie	W 8
2008		
June 26	Octavius Smith, Rochester, NY	KO 1
July 19	Travis Fulton, St. Joseph, MO	KO 2
Sept. 13	Josh Gutcher, Reading	KO 1
Dec. 5	Malachy Farrell, Santa Ynez, CA	KO 3
2009		
Jan. 16	Ken Murphy, Tulsa, OK	KO 2
Feb. 7	Cliff Couser, Anaheim, CA	KO 1
May 30	Livin Castillo, Reading	KO 3
Aug. 7	William Shahan, Primm, NV	KO 1

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DRAW	KOs
18	18	0	0	15

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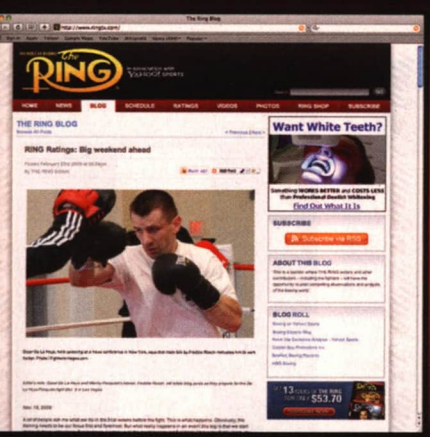

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It didn't matter whether he was backing up and landing the jab (right) or stepping in behind his right (opposite page), Vitali was able to hit Arreola virtually at will. The battered challenger's corner finally rescued him at the end of the 10th round in order to spare him further punishment.

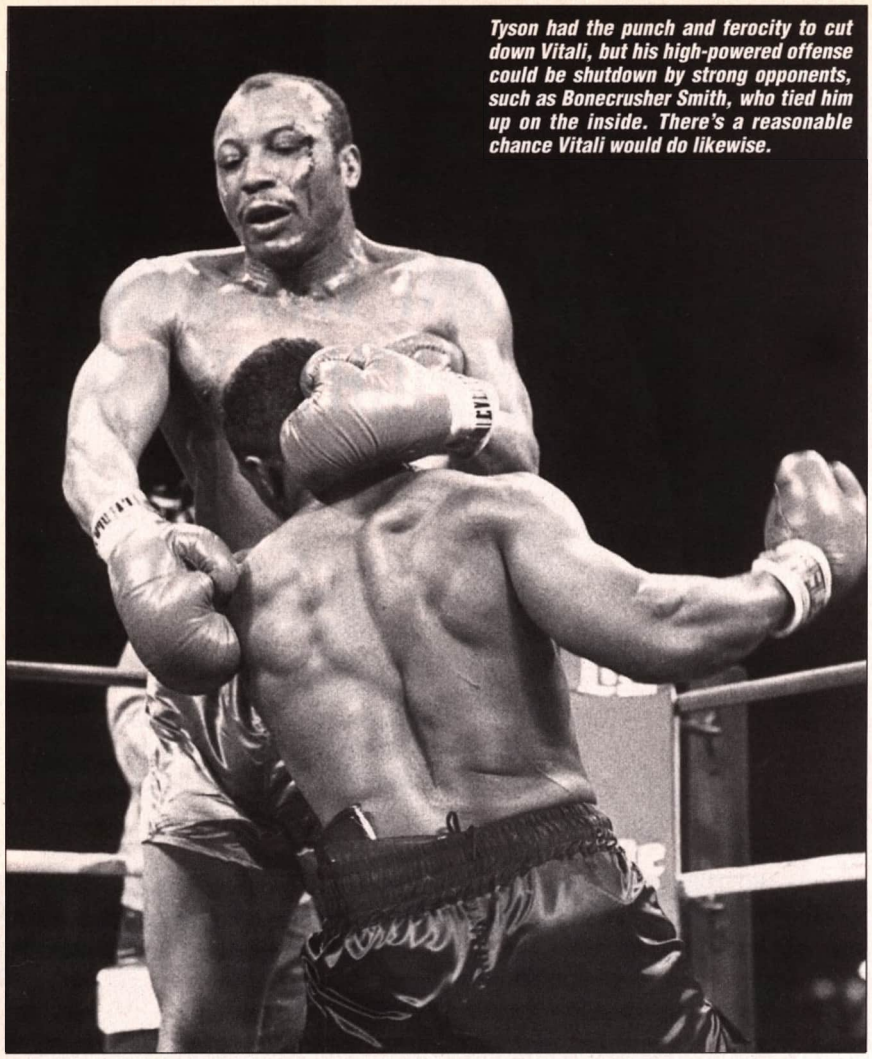
PHOTOS BY CRAIG BENNETT/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

HOW TO BEAT VITALI...

MATCH HIM WITH PAST HEAVYWEIGHT GREATS

By Ivan Goldman

Is there anyone out there who could defeat a healthy Vitali Klitschko? It was a question worth asking after the Ukrainian giant so thoroughly outmaneuvered and dominated game, busy Chris "The Nightmare" Arreola. Because no matter how hard and long you stare at the list of top heavyweights, it's difficult to imagine any of them getting the job done against him with the possible exception of THE



Tyson had the punch and ferocity to cut down Vitali, but his high-powered offense could be shutdown by strong opponents, such as Bonecrusher Smith, who tied him up on the inside. There's a reasonable chance Vitali would do likewise.

RING world champion, Vitali's younger brother Wladimir. And that fight won't ever take place.

Vitali's unconventional style is unique. An occasional heavyweight might approximate his colossal size, strength, and reach, but there's more to him than that. When he gets tagged, he can take it and tag back. On a scale of one to 10, Vitali's ring generalship is an 11. By the end of the first round, he's already dictated the rules of engagement. He keeps opponents at the distance he demands and the angle he prefers, while round by round he weakens and chops them down from afar.

"He's a cold, calculated, cerebral killer," observed Larry Merchant (Merchant's HBO contract would be ending soon, but he was going out with verbal skills intact).

Conceivably, somebody might catch 6'7½" "Doctor Iron Fist" with the perfect shot while he's napping, but in his 40 fights, he's never been on the canvas. Even so, there are fighters with the potential to solve the mighty puzzle that is Vitali Klitschko. Some of them would have a definite edge. But they're not within the depleted ranks of current heavyweights. They're fighters of the past.

Among them is a champion from the very recent past. Of course there's nothing hypothetical about a Lennox Lewis-Klitschko match. In 2003, in the same Los Angeles ring where Vitali crushed Arreola, Lennox defeated Vitali for real, ripping brutal cuts around one eye that forced the ring physician to call it over after six rounds of furious give and take.

Ex-champ Mike Tyson, watching ringside as Vitali dismantled Arreola, may very well have recalled a similar thumping he once took. It was from Lewis, a champion who, like Larry Holmes, gains stature as time passes.

The early, very quick Tyson, the youngest heavyweight titleholder ever, might have worked his way inside to maul Vitali. But Tyson, even though he had one-punch kayo power in either fist, had problems with jab-and-grabbers such as Quick Tillis, Bonecrusher Smith, and Tony Tucker. Still, he managed to beat all of them in sloppy contests.

Though clinching is essential to his game, Vitali isn't a standard jab-and-grab prizefighter. Against Arreola he once again allowed his gloves to dangle below his waist, while he kept his distance, relying on footwork and his long reach to keep him safe. He threw an array of odd blows that would ordinarily be considered dangerous and silly, including long-distance uppercuts to the body. But given his physical dimensions and footwork, Vitali made them work. And when Arreola got inside, Vitali grabbed with his powerful arms and waited for referee Jon Schorle, who never warned Klitschko for holding and was quick to break the fighters. In many instances, Arreola paid a stiff price to get inside, but thanks to both his opponent and Schorle, he wasn't allowed to benefit from his hard work.

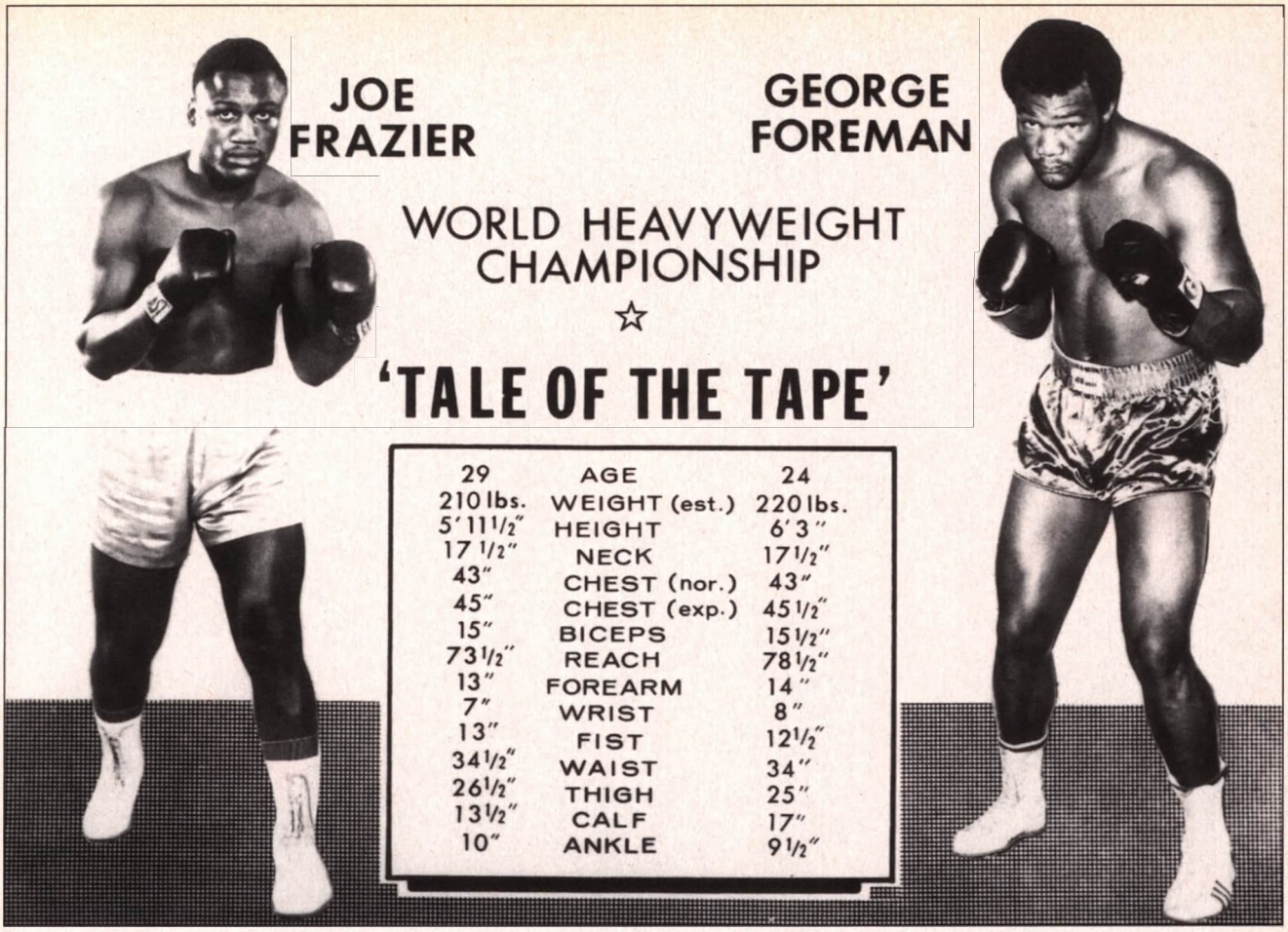
"My style may not be so impressive," Klitschko said afterward, "but it's very effective."

Said Arreola: "He pulls back, but he pulls back and counters. He beat my ass."

Tyson, though, had another strength that shouldn't be discounted: he scared other fighters, not an easy thing to do to a pro. Many opponents lost before the opening bell, intimidated by his seething ferocity as he paced the ring, eager to begin his assault. Walking toward the ring for their 1996 rematch, Frank Bruno, who didn't get past the third round, looked like he was being taken to the guillotine, crossing himself repeatedly and showing the body language of a caged rabbit.

Emanuel Steward, who was in Lewis' corner against both Tyson and Vitali, points out that with his hulking presence and calculated body language, Vitali is himself a prefight intimidator. It would have been a powerful stare-down.

Holmes, a rangy champion, was also a fine boxer with fluid motion and one



Big George Foreman twice knocked out Smokin' Joe Frazier, but both men could very well have beaten Vitali, providing they fought him at the right time during their Hall of Fame careers.

of the sweetest heavyweight-jabs ever. It's easy to imagine the prime Holmes boxing rings around Vitali as Vitali grabs at thin air.

Joe Louis? Not the greatest footwork, but he threw quick, deadly, picture-perfect punches and had an answer for every style. He easily handled some very big men—Abe Simon, Primo Carnera, Buddy Baer. In a match-up against "The Brown Bomber," a Vitali backer would be on the wrong side of the facts.

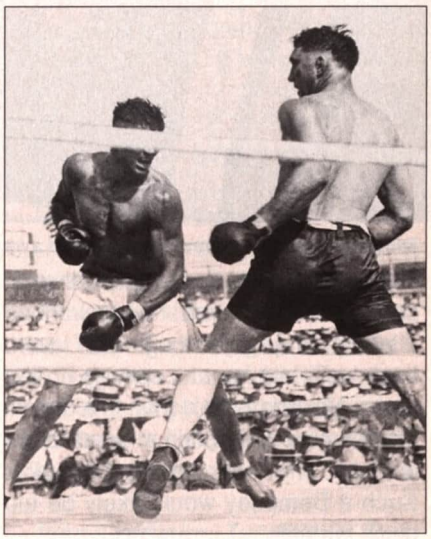
Muhammad Ali: His footwork, defensive skills, and sharp, accurate combinations would frustrate and defeat Vitali. And did we mention his lightning speed? Even if he got caught, Ali had a great, great chin. The Ali that could get through an entire round with Sonny Liston while blinded by a suspicious substance on Liston's gloves would have little trouble with Vitali.

Liston, who worked behind an excellent left jab, was a finer athlete than he gets credit for, and master at prefight intimidation. Still, there are many what-ifs. What if Liston had led a more conventional life and stayed out of trouble? He'd have made a bigger mark and had a far better chance at defeating a Vitali.

Joe Frazier, a smallish heavyweight who had excellent speed in his younger days, probably would have reached Vitali with his crippling left hook, though he'd have paid a price. His prime didn't last long, because once he lost a half-step, he started getting caught by bigger men like George Foreman, which put additional wear and tear on him.

Foreman: No one could make Foreman look small. In his younger version he was a man with such a murderous punch that it overcame his limited boxing skills. The older Foreman was even slower, but much smarter. That's why at age 45 he was able to time Michael Moorer with a tremendous right. That Foreman could be trouble for Klitschko.

Jack Dempsey: He destroyed giant Jess Willard, but smart jabbers like Gene Tunney gave him problems. When you reach back this far in time there are



Jack Demspey had no trouble whatsoever stopping the massive Jess Willard to win the heavyweight championship in 1915. But could the "Manassa Mauler" have handled Vitali just as easily?

PHOTO BY BYRAN CROWE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Arreola was extremely brave, but absorbed a tremendous amount of punishment as Vitali's punches gradually turned his face into a gory mess.

even more variables. Dempsey, though committed to his craft, had to work as a laborer and fight in tough-man tavern contests while he was coming up the ranks. Nowadays he'd train in a decent environment and obtain a lucrative pro contract after winning the Olympics. Such a Dempsey would likely be too much for Vitali.

Rocky Marciano: Yes, nowadays he'd be a smallish cruiserweight, but he had a tremendous punch, a terrific work ethic, and was tough as a railroad spike. He liked to fight at a middle distance and lean a bit to the right, which wouldn't work against Vitali. But he knew how to adjust, and he'd have a decent shot at cutting down a 21st century giant.

Evander Holyfield: Sure, he was a blown-up light heavy, but bigger men were his meat and potatoes. Ask Foreman. "The Real Deal" would stand an excellent chance against Vitali.

Two other heavyweights from the recent past, Riddick Bowe and Andrew Golota, had all the tools but deficient attitudes, raising even more what-ifs (Yes, Golota still competes, but we're talking here about the prime Golota). Bowe and Golota were big men with quick, powerful hands. Conclusion: Bowe overcomes Vitali, and Golota, lacking mental toughness, loses to Vitali.

At age 38, Klitschko, (38-2 (37), must be nearing the point where his skills will

PHOTO BY MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

His corner crew comforts a distraught Arreola after he lost for the first time in 28 pro fights. The rotund Mexican-American impressed the crowd of more than 14,000 at the Staples Center with his unflagging courage, but never seemed to have a realistic chance of winning.

diminish. He already retired once after a string of injuries, and then returned. At the postfight press conference (conducted in English, German, Russian, Ukrainian, and Spanish) he said he definitely wouldn't try to outlast Foreman in boxing longevity. But it appeared he already had another match in the works around the end of this year, probably in Germany, where he and his brother are bigger draws. He competed at L.A.'s Staples Center to give a boost to its owner, AEG, a global entertainment consortium that has a strong business relationship with the Klitschkos.

The crowd, reported at 14,556, was boisterous and probably 90 percent for Arreola, an L.A. native son who was seeking to be the first Mexican-American (or ethnic Mexican) to win a major heavyweight title. Ironically, Klitschko and his wife live most of the year in Los Angeles, and their three children are U.S. citizens.

Arreola, 27-1 (24), took his first loss hard, weeping uncontrollably after his friend and trainer Henry Ramirez called a halt following a terribly one-sided 10th round. "It was a good decision to stop it," said Dan Goossen, Arreola's promoter.

Arreola, 28, was generally more impressive to attendees inside Staples than to the TV audience. He won the eighth round on two judges' cards, but when he answered the bell for round nine he had nothing left and just followed Klitschko around while getting hammered. THE RING also gave him the fourth round, which may have been the challenger's best.

Vitali said he had no doubt that Arreola will be a champion. Nils Weber of the *Hamburger Moregnpost* daily, who has covered many of Vitali's matches, told THE RING that he couldn't recall another opponent who was trying hard so late in the fight.

Vitali, who holds a Ph.D. in physical science, has served on the Kiev, Ukraine, city council after running on a reform ticket. He lost two mayoral elections. When he hangs up his gloves, he'll likely return to politics. That can't be too soon for potential ring opponents who'd have to fight him not hypothetically, but for real. ■

Ivan Goldman, THE RING's West Coast correspondent, was ringside at the Staples Center for Klitschko-Arreola.

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MAYWEATHER'S RETURN

What Does It Mean For Boxing?

By Joseph Santoliquito

Floyd "Money" Mayweather was back in his element again, back inside his boxing sanctuary where he commands everything around him. He arrived with little winks and stares at ringsiders, dancing his way to the ring inside the MGM Grand Garden Arena. Approximately an hour later, he left with his 40th victory, following an easy fight and a volatile postfight routine that almost boiled over into

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

a fight after the fight dubbed "Number One/Numero Uno."

Mayweather came back against lightweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez, an opponent over which he held a blatant size advantage. In the end, it was hard to tell who had the 21-month layoff from the ring, Mayweather or Marquez. Mayweather dominated almost every second of every round, making Marquez, 50-5-1 (37), whiff horribly to the tune of a 12-percent connect rate and 514 missed punches. Mayweather's 59 percent to Marquez' meager 12 percent was the greatest disparity of connect percentage in a major fight since CompuBox started taking punch stats.

Mayweather, 40-0 (25) is indeed back, and the Sweet Science is richer for his return. There are, of course, still lots of unanswered question: Who will he fight next? Did the impressive pay-per-view numbers indicate he is now as successful at the box office as he is inside the ring? Will he regain the top spot on THE RING's pound-for-pound ratings?

THE RING answers these and other questions in an attempt to decipher exactly what Mayweather's comeback means for him and boxing.

Did beating Marquez in the manner he did enrich Mayweather's status?

It did and it didn't. Many in boxing already figured Mayweather would dominate the skilled but much smaller Marquez. And when Marquez came in at 142 pounds for the contracted weight of 144, and Mayweather weighed 146, it was an even stronger indication that it would be a one-sided fight.

"I don't know if Mayweather had any intention of making the 144-pound limit in the first place," said HBO blow-by-blow announcer Jim Lampley. "Marquez made his $600,000 on the scales, ($300,000) for each pound Mayweather was over, and with the long layoff and the tumult surrounding the weight issues, and the money he gave up on the scale, something still has to be said about Mayweather: Nothing ruffles Floyd and takes him out of the fight he wants to fight. We're witnessing greatness."

But beating someone who was starkly smaller and not finishing him, when he

In the second round, Mayweather scored the only knockdown of the fight, when he nailed Marquez with a left hook to the head. Despite his total dominance of the reigning lightweight champion, Mayweather never went for the knockout.

PHOTO BY MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Like so many before him, Marquez could not solve Mayweather's shoulder-roll defense. In fact, the Mexican's dismal connect-rate created the greatest disparity between fighters in a major fight since CompuBox began counting punches.

seemed capable of stopping Marquez a number of times, kept the "boring" label firmly attached to Mayweather.

Mayweather likes to compare himself to the all-time greats, but Sugar Ray Robinson was a natural welterweight who knocked out middleweights, and to use a more contemporary example, Manny Pacquiao has stopped larger opponents in Oscar De La Hoya and Ricky Hatton.

"I can't see how it hurt Mayweather," said Dave Bontempo, color analyst for the HBO's European feed. "In this case, a guy comes back after all that time off. He didn't come back against a slouch in Marquez, a guy ticketed for the Hall of Fame. Floyd made him miss over 500 punches. I think Floyd Mayweather is the greatest defensive fighter that I've ever seen."

Will Mayweather fight Shane Mosley next?

He should. It's a fight that has widespread appeal, and would be the easiest to make of all the attractive options available. For one, Mayweather Promotions may have fighters signed, but it's not a registered promotional company with the Nevada State Athletic Commission. Instead, it works in cooperation with Golden Boy Promotions.

Mosley is a Golden Boy fighter and someone who deserves to be part of a huge attraction. Mayweather and De La Hoya don't like each other, but they're intelligent enough businessmen to realize they need each other. And Golden Boy Promotions needs a blockbuster—someone who is a major pay-per-view draw, like "The Golden Boy" himself used to be.

"I think I deserve the fight. I think it's the best fight out there and it's a fight that has to be made," Mosley said. "It's what fans really want to see. I don't know what more I have to do."

It's a fight that makes sense. Mosley could be the only full-fledged welter who can match the hand speed of Mayweather and could cause him real problems.

The shame of it is that there is really nothing more Mosley can do but wait and hope Mayweather gives him the chance. He's climbed every soapbox, every mountaintop to shout out his point. He's coming off one of the most impressive victories of his career, against Antonio Margarito, and as time moves forward, the chance to profit from that victory is withering.

"There is zero about boxing that's fair. It's like life, and there's nothing fair about how Shane Mosley is treated in this," Lampley said. "It's why boxing and life take place on uneven playing fields where personality enters in. Shane deserves the chance."

Did the contentious postfight interview between HBO's Max Kellerman, Mosley, and Mayweather create additional demand for Mayweather-Mosley?

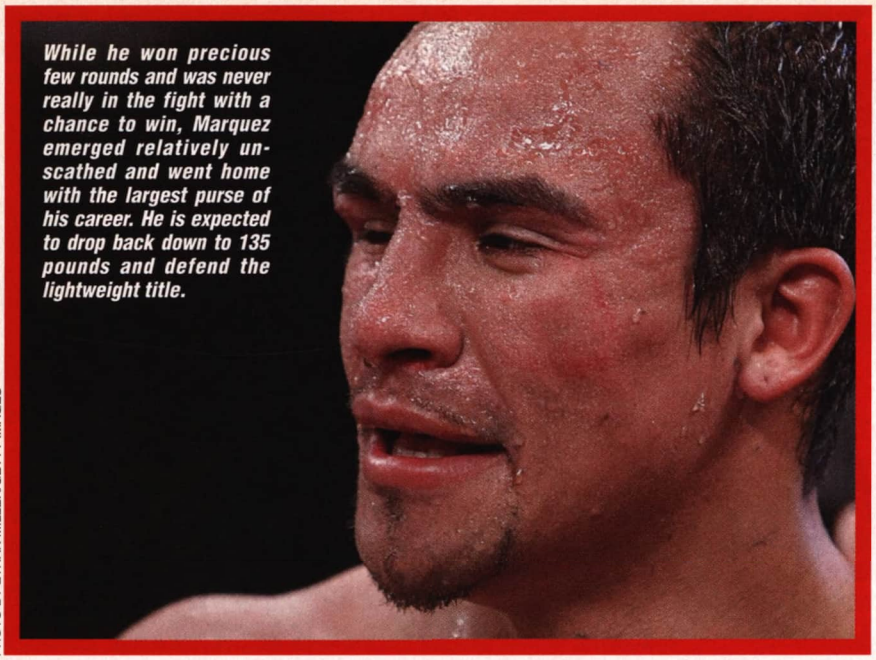
First, it wasn't staged, as many thought it was. Pro wrestler Triple-H may have been in the ring as part of Mayweather's ring-walk troupe, and there may have been a hint of WWE hyperbole, but it probably made a potential Mayweather-Mosley fight even more attractive than before.

During the fight, according to Bernard Hopkins and Shane Mosley, Mayweather was "staring [Mosley] down" during the Marquez fight. The HBO crew even commented on it, saying that Mayweather was playing up to Mosley, seated at ringside with Hopkins.

So when Mayweather beckoned Mosley, who was in the ring after the fight as part of Golden Boy's team, it sparked something unexpected.

"You can see Floyd wave Shane over on camera with his left hand, and it seemed to me welcoming at first," Kellerman recalled. "Once Shane talked into the microphone, it started to get hostile. When I felt it reached an incendiary point, I went back to Jim at ringside.

"I wanted to ask Floyd what his position in the sport is right now. He



While he won precious few rounds and was never really in the fight with a chance to win, Marquez emerged relatively unscathed and went home with the largest purse of his career. He is expected to drop back down to 135 pounds and defend the lightweight title.

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

thought I was being disrespectful towards him by letting Shane talk. When Floyd grabbed the microphone from me and said, 'Max, you talk too much,' I was probably doing too much of the talking. He was right about that. It was his moment and his time to talk. I can understand his point."

The verbal confrontation created a healthy buzz on YouTube, and a nice postfight groundswell of interest in a Mayweather-Mosley fight.

"It wasn't my intention to stir anything up," Kellerman said, "but I can see where the interest can build from a happening like that."

Will Mayweather meet the winner of Cotto-Pacquiao?

By the time this issue of THE RING reaches readers, Cotto-Pacquiao will be less than two weeks away. But regardless of who wins, it's the fight that everyone will be clamoring for. The strange thing is that if Pacquiao wins, the appeal for Mayweather-Pacquiao could have waned, due to the fact Mayweather had such an easy time with the undersized Marquez, who fought "Pac-Man" extremely close in their two fights. Before Mayweather's 21-month hiatus, fans were calling for a Cotto-Mayweather clash, and if Cotto prevails against Pacquiao, demand for a match between him and Mayweather will increase. But Top Rank President Bob Arum has always said, and continues to say, "Mayweather is afraid of Cotto."

According to a number of sources, if Pacquiao beats Cotto, a Pacquiao-

"Money" Mismatch

It was apparent from the weigh-in, when the two stood close to each other, that Floyd Mayweather, 32, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was noticeably thicker than the diminutive Juan Manuel Marquez, 36, Mexico City, Mexico. It was soon verified when Mayweather stepped on the scale and it read 146 pounds, two pounds over the agreed upon catchweight of 144—and Marquez came in at 142.

One minute into the fight, it was apparent Mayweather didn't need any help. Despite the size disparity, "Money," who was (unofficially) 152 on fight night and Marquez 146, was that much faster and had gaping advantages in speed and reach.

In the second round, Mayweather dropped Marquez, 50-5-1 (37), with a left hook to the chin. It was the only knockdown of the fight. What was unusual was that it was Mayweather stalking the smaller Marquez, landing combinations, and getting out of the way of counters.

At times, Marquez looked bad, swinging and missing horribly, sometimes stumbling off balance. Mayweather, meanwhile, showed no effects of ring rust from the layoff, stabbing Marquez with his jab, and occasionally mixing in right hands and left hooks. By the time the fight was over, he had nailed Marquez with 290 of 493 punches. Marquez, on the other hand, only landed a pitiful 69 of the 583 punches he threw.

Although his many fans in attendance tried lifting his spirits by cheering every time Marquez let his hands go, he simply couldn't penetrate Mayweather's defenses with any consistency. Mayweather was not only too big, he was also too good.

Judge William Lerch (USA) had it 118-109, Bert Clements (USA) 120-107, and Dave Moretti (USA) 119-108, all for Mayweather. THE RING scored it to Mayweather, 119-109, giving only the eighth round to Marquez. Tony Weeks (USA) was the referee.

"Marquez is a great fighter and a dangerous fighter," Mayweather said afterward. "It's the reason why I felt that when I had him in trouble a few times, I stayed back, because I've seen him down too many times and come back."

Marquez, meanwhile, now holds the unique perspective of having faced the best two fighters in the world, Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao.

"Mayweather is a great fighter and very fast," said Marquez, almost with a hint of a wink under his swollen eyes. "But Manny Pacquiao *fights*!"

—J.S.

Mayweather fight may never be made, since the Mayweather camp and Arum really don't relish the idea of working with one another.

"I'd have to think with the money involved, Mayweather and Pacquiao would have to fight," Kellerman said. "Any of those fights, Pacquiao-Mayweather, Mayweather-Mosley, Cotto-Mayweather, they're all huge-money fights that the market place will demand."

How does the lopsided loss to Mayweather affect Marquez?

It doesn't, well, not much, anyway. Few were giving Marquez a chance in the first place. Marquez will likely drop back down to 135 pounds, where he's still THE RING's lightweight world champion. Don't forget, Marquez moved up in weight again, after having just two fights at lightweight and only three at junior lightweight before taking on Mayweather at welterweight.

Marquez shouldn't have any problem getting back down to 135, where Michael Katsidis, who won on the Mayweather-Marquez undercard, Edwin Valero, Rolando Reyes, and Antonio DeMarco all wait.

Marquez lost little luster in defeat. He was treated with great fanfare after the fight and was responsible for the lion's share of the 13,116 fans on hand at the MGM Grand Garden Arena. It was the highest payday of the Mexican's career, totaling roughly $2.6-million, after Mayweather's additional $600,000 for being over the originally contracted weight was added to his guarantee. And Marquez came out unharmed, other than being scuffed up.

Does Mayweather now possess the kind of appeal that will make him the centerpiece of pay-per-view events?

Even before the layoff, the Floyd's-fights-are-dull bromide plagued him, and the Marquez fight did little to dispel that perception.

Despite winning almost every round convincingly against Marquez, Mayweather never went for the knockout. He was content to stay on the outside and potshot, even after it became obvious that he could do pretty much as he wished. Conversely, when Pacquiao had Hatton teetering and De La Hoya lumped up and cringing, he closed the deal. Mosley did likewise with Margarito. There's no doubt about it: The lack of finishing gumption clearly hurts Mayweather's market value.

"Floyd's mastery of technical craft is enormous, but the thing that will take him to another level is risk," Lampley said. "Not taking risks could prevent him from going to the heights he needs. His perfect record is a tremendous indicator of technical skill and competence as a fighter, but the theatrical nature of the sport comes with a dependence of risk to please the audience. Now Floyd still has plenty of time to do that too."

Kellerman mentioned something that perhaps captures Mayweather's marketability better than anything. "Floyd's outside-the-ring personality and some of the outrageous things he says before fights certainly takes people's minds off the

A rare exchange of punches

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

defensive way he fights," Kellerman said. "I like the way Floyd fights, but there are some out there who don't."

We may not ever find out just how big Mayweather could be if he doesn't fight Pacquiao or Cotto.

"Pacquiao is a global sensation, Mayweather is an American star," Lampley said. "If he has to fight Cotto, Cotto has a built-in audience, and a fight at Madison Square Garden will probably break all kinds of gate records. If he fights Pacquiao, Floyd will be again in a beneficial position where he doesn't have to be the centerpiece of the attraction. It's the same dilemma Roy Jones faced when he was at his peak. Like Roy, Floyd is also by far the best fighter in the world, but that doesn't make his appeal the best in the world. Jones was the consensus number-one ranked pound-for-pound fighter, but he wasn't the number-one gate attraction, and that rankled him, like to some degree I'm sure it rankles Floyd."

Does Mayweather really lack the appreciation he deserves?

Mayweather stood at the postfight dais, decked out in his vested tan suit, and it seemed as if he was wondering aloud when he said, "I really don't know what I have to do to get people to really appreciate what I do. All I do is win. I think I entertain people. The way I look at it, I'm in the entertainment business. I came back from 21 months off. I really don't know what more I have to do."

Mayweather may be viewing his lack of appreciation through funhouse mirrors. If not the best fighter in the world, he's certainly among the top two or three. Though he wants fans to think he's wildly entertaining, he's not. And as long as he continues fighting undersized opponents who he's able to dominate, that won't change.

"I don't think Floyd's underappreciated," Lampley said. "He has a definable audience. I don't understand his attitude that he's underappreciated. He wants to be called the greatest fighter of all-time, and I don't know anyone who's ready to call him that yet. Juan Diaz is not the all-time greatest, but he gives us that theatric element and fabulous technical skill. You challenge yourself by finding the most difficult challengers at the time. If Floyd chooses to escalate his challenges, at the end of the day, he makes his case about being appreciated."

Can Mayweather help boxing overcome its dearth of superstars?

Boxing needs all the help it can get, and having Mayweather coming back certainly helps. But it may be more appropriate to ask: Can Mayweather become the face of boxing? He certainly believes so.

"All major fights, every big fight there is in boxing, goes through Floyd Mayweather," Mayweather said after the Marquez fight. "Any combination of fights at welterweight, which has the most talent in boxing, begins and ends with me."

The fact that the Marquez fight sold a million pay-per-views certainly goes a helluva long way toward confirming Mayweather's assertion. Moreover, those kind of numbers will probably result both fighters receiving a percentage of the PPV money in addition to their guarantees.

Mayweather enjoys his first victory since he kayoed Ricky Hatton in December 2007. Despite a 21-month layoff, he appeared to be just as good as he was before the extended break. Even so, Floyd said he felt a little rusty and would be even better in his next fight.

PHOTO BY MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

PHOTO BY TOM HOGAN/GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS

HBO's Max Kellerman is caught between Mayweather, Mosley, and Hopkins during the contentious postfight interview, during which Mosley, goaded on by B-Hop, called out Floyd. Hopefully, the incident will lead to a Mosley-Mayweather showdown.

Is Mayweather the superstar he thinks he is?

He is definitely getting close. Sure, some may like his style, and others may not. But there is one thing you can't do: Ignore him.

It was Mayweather's drawing power that attracted ESPN *SportsCenter* to the MGM Grand September 19—on a college football night and with Major League Baseball winding down. It was Mayweather, good or bad, that had people talking about the Marquez fight.

"Floyd was always comfortable playing the bad guy role, and he played the role in the Marquez promotion," Bontempo said. "He's smart to play that role. I did his amateur fights and I saw him come up as a kid. He's a lot more of a nice guy underneath. I don't think Floyd is interested in carrying the sport, just like Roy Jones didn't want to carry the sport. But boxing goes through him, like he said."

Like him or not, Mayweather has beaten everyone he's fought, and both fans and those within the boxing industry realize he is truly special.

Will Mayweather's lifestyle catch up to him?

His Internal Revenue Service worries seem to be over. He received a $10-million guarantee for the Marquez fight, with the IRS ready to garnishee $5.6-million to settle Mayweather's unpaid 2007 taxes. But Keith Kizer, executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, said Mayweather agreed to pay the IRS the week of the fight, though it's still a sticking point to Mayweather.

When the topic was broached after he beat Marquez, Mayweather lashed back at a reporter. "Do I ask you about your personal situations, do I ask you about your taxes, or your personal income?" asked Mayweather. "I don't think it should be an issue."

Maybe it shouldn't, but it could have been the main reason why Mayweather decided to return to boxing—the one vocation in which he knows he can command big money.

It also didn't help his image when three weeks prior to the Marquez fight, a Rolls Royce Mayweather owns was searched by police investigating a shooting outside a Las Vegas roller-skating rink, where a "known associate" of Mayweather's could have been involved.

In addition to that drama, three days before the Marquez fight, JP Morgan Chase Bank filed a suit against Mayweather, claiming he owed more than $167,000 on a Mercedes Maybach 57S that was in default.

"See what I have to go through?" Mayweather said. "What does that have to do with anything I do in the ring, and why did that come out just before the fight? That has nothing to do with me. I am one of a kind. I am this generation's Sugar Ray Leonard and Muhammad Ali. They had their problems, and no one ever brought it up to them after they won a big fight. Why is this s___ brought up to me?"

The answer to that question is easy: Because he's Floyd Mayweather. ■

INSIDE THE DIAZ-MALIGNAGGI CONTROVERSY

What Really Happened And Why

PHOTO BY JOE CORDOVA/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Malignaggi catches Diaz with one of the many left hands the New Yorker landed during their controversial fight in Houston. When hometown hero Diaz was awarded a unanimous decision, Malignaggi was not the only person who thought he'd been robbed.

By William Dettloff

Strictly speaking, there was very little that was unusual about what happened on August 22 in Houston, Texas. A hometown boy won a decision over an out-of-towner in what most agree was a reasonably close fight.

Really, measured against the ever fluid and relentlessly entertaining standards practiced in the prizefighting business, it was utterly mundane. Even if you want to say the out-of-town kid got robbed—and there's not even universal agreement there—that's pretty humdrum in this sport. It always has been.

What made Juan Diaz' controversial win over Paulie Malignaggi noteworthy was the length to which Malignaggi went to forecast what he saw as a loss that was both virtually inevitable and profoundly unjust in its architecture, and the degree to which his prediction came true. It was uncanny.

Malignaggi couldn't have foretold it more accurately if he were the sole owner of the world's only functioning time machine and used it to travel ahead to the moments that came right after he gave Diaz what was, in the eyes of a substantial majority, a thorough boxing lesson.

The happenings of the fight itself are by this time widely known and almost secondary in terms of their importance, but they deserve a general recounting nonetheless. Malignaggi, 26-3 (5), used his legs and an accurate, stinging left jab to control and out-maneuver Diaz in many of the rounds and along the way opened two cuts around Diaz' right eye.

Diaz, 35-2 (17), chugged ever forward, as is his wont, but found his famously high-punch output significantly reduced by Malignaggi's movement, jab, and ability to shut things down on the inside. Still, his hooks and power punches were more readily noticeable and appeared harder than Malignaggi's jabs and occasional right hands. And when they landed, the Houston crowd, bless their boxing-loving hearts, reacted, as one would expect them to react.

The unanimous decision for Diaz, 137¼, was rendered by judges Raul Caiz, Donald Sutherland, and Gale Van Hoy by scores of 115-113, 116-112, and 118-110, respectively. A preponderance of the boxing press had Malignaggi, Brooklyn, New York, 138¼, winning in the vicinity of 115-113 (see sidebar). THE RING scored it 116-113 for Malignaggi.

A poll at fightnews.com, conducted in the days after the fight, found that approximately 60 percent of respondents thought Malignaggi deserved the decision, while the balance were evenly split between those who thought that Diaz had won and those who believed that the decision could have gone to either man.

In Malignaggi's mind, the seeds of the official result were sown during the negotiations for the fight, during which he and his camp say he gave ground on all the important financial and strategic considerations. He took the location, the Toyota Center in Houston. He took an 18-foot ring, which clearly benefited the aggressor, Diaz. He took a maximum weight of 138½, which he hadn't made in years.

These concessions, according to Malignaggi's camp, were the result of leverage Diaz had largely because his promoter is Golden Boy Promotions, whose relationship with HBO guarantees its fighters dates—and, consequently, larger purses—that are rarely available to fighters aligned with other promotional outfits.

"Juan Diaz had a guaranteed date (on HBO)," Lou DiBella, Malignaggi's promoter, told THE RING. "Paulie Malignaggi didn't. Paulie wasn't going to get on television without an opportunity. And the opportunity that presented itself was Juan Diaz."

Malignaggi agreed.

"If DiBella Entertainment had other dates (on HBO), I would not have gone to Houston," Malignaggi said. "But because Golden Boy has all the dates, I would not have had a chance at another big fight until 2010. If there were other options, no doubt about it, I wouldn't have gone to Houston to fight Juan Diaz. But there were no other options. You have to take what you can get. I'm not in a position where I want to fight until I'm 35. I had to take any opportunity."

So with the cards already stacked against him in ways and by means that are not at all unusual in the fight game, and indeed whose acquisition can and should be viewed as part of a good promoter's job, Malignaggi rested his flagging hopes on what he says he was promised: neutral officials.

What he got were Caiz, from California, Sutherland, from Oklahoma, Van Hoy, from Texas, and referee Laurence Cole, also from Texas and the son of Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) boss Dickie Cole.

Before attempting to discern how "neutral" these judges were, it's important first to discuss Malignaggi's recollection of how and when the alleged promise of neutral officials was made, and by whom.

"It was at the Empire State Building at the (Floyd) Mayweather- (Juan Manuel) Marquez press conference," Malignaggi said. "Richard Schaefer approached me, and he was flanked by (HBO

PHOTO BY JOE CORDOVA/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Diaz' punches were often more eye-catching, but Malignaggi blocked or avoided many of them, as demonstrated in this photograph. But regardless of whether they landed cleanly or not, the crowd cheered whenever Diaz launched an attack.

There's no doubt that Diaz did connect with some solid punches, but Malignaggi never went down or appeared hurt. Whether Diaz' occasional bombs were enough to offset Malignaggi's greater output and slick defense is a matter of fierce debate.

executives) Kerry Davis and Ross Greenburg, and asked me if I would fight Diaz in Houston.

"I was getting ready to fight (Mike) Alvarado and I said, 'Thank you, but no thank you. It's a great opportunity. I would love to fight Diaz in a more neutral situation; I would rather not go to another guy's hometown.' And he said, 'What if we get you neutral officials?'

"And I said, 'You know what, Richard, it's a great offer, I appreciate the opportunity, but I'm getting ready to fight Alvarado.' And we ended the conversation and everything was fine. I would consider it with neutral officials. Then when Alvarado pulled out (with an injury), I called his bluff. It was only a week or so later."

Ron Rizzo, an attorney working on Malignaggi's behalf for DiBella Entertainment, corroborated Malignaggi's version of events. In an email to THE RING, he wrote that, "The terms as originally agreed to on June 8th were Main Event on HBO *B.A.D.*, Houston, TX site, financial and accommodation terms, and neutral officials."

Schaefer, though in agreement about where, when, and under what circumstances he first offered Malignaggi a fight with Diaz, disputes that he promised neutral officials.

"We did talk about the fight at the press conference, but he said he really didn't want to do it because he felt it would basically be an uphill battle," Schaefer told THE RING. "He said he was going to go and fight someone else. He had another fight lined up. I said okay, look, at least we tried.

"So Ross Greenburg actually had mentioned that that's the fight, with Diaz, so then I said (to Malignaggi), 'Look, I'm sure you would get fair treatment in Texas,' but I would never and can never go and promise somebody neutral judges because the appointment of judges is not up to me, it's not up to any promoter; it's up to the state athletic commission.

"What I did tell Paulie is I will talk to the athletic commission and see what we can do. I will ask them to appoint neutral officials and if at the end of the day they listen to us or not I cannot promise you, because it's out of my control. You can't promise somebody something that is out of your control. But I told him I will do my best to see if we can agree on neutral officials."

Schaefer said that when he asked the commission—specifically executive director Bill Kuntz, Cole's superior—for neutral officials, the response he received was not entirely helpful.

"It was, 'Are you implying that there is something wrong with our officials?' We said no, we just want to avoid any potential issues, because I don't think it would be good for the sport or for the state of Texas," Schaefer said.

"We said, 'We're not saying there are going to be issues, we're just saying if there would be, we could eliminate any potential issues.' And they were rather clear and direct with us and said, 'The appointment of any officials is up to the state athletic commission. We appreciate your concerns, but we will not take it into consideration because it will look as if our officials are not capable to officiate a bout in Texas, and we cannot allow that perception to be there.' And that was it."

The Texas commission has a reputation in the industry for doing things their own way and, apparently, the reputation is justified. Although the lack of broad regulation of the sport across the country means protocol varies from state to state, many commissions are willing to work with promoters when it comes to the selection of officials. Greg Sirb, executive director of the Pennsylvania State Athletic

Commission, told THE RING that to a degree, it's part of the job.

"We usually entertain suggestions; there's nothing wrong with that. For example, Paul Spadafora fought many times here for his title. We knew the other guy wouldn't want to see Pittsburgh officials around the ring, so we'd normally go one from Pennsylvania, one from a neutral place, and one from wherever the (challenger) was from," Sirb said. "You've got different scenarios, but I'm always open-minded and you try to keep it, at least on paper, as neutral as you can."

Sirb recognizes that sometimes conflicts exist that are justifiable and that it's better many times to be accommodating, so long as you're not being asked to do something unethical.

"I don't mind if a promoter contacts or writes me and says, 'Greg, we don't like ref or judge X because we've had a bad time with him once.' If it's legitimate, I can see that. I don't want a promoter to come and say 'I want X.' That's a huge red flag to me. But I'll entertain issues where someone says, 'Hey, we don't want this guy.' I can understand some of this stuff."

That's not the case in Texas. Rizzo wrote to THE RING that on or about June 30th they were informed by the commission that neutral officials would be "an issue" and they would have to accept at least one Texas judge. Roughly two weeks later they were given Van Hoy, Kelley Yho, who is from Texas, and Caiz.

The Malignaggi camp was especially concerned about Van Hoy, who was one of three judges to score the first Rocky Juarez-Chris John fight, also held in Houston, a draw, and about Caiz, whom Malignaggi afterward called a "gopher" for Golden Boy.

Caiz had scored the Erik Morales-Zahir Raheem fight in 2005 closer than had the other judges who gave Raheem the decision win. This made Malignaggi nervous, as both Caiz and Diaz are of Mexican descent (as is Morales). Other members of the Malignaggi camp felt Caiz had demonstrated a tendency to favor aggressive fighters over stick-and-move boxers like Malignaggi.

According to Rizzo, the weeks preceding the fight saw the Malignaggi camp repeatedly ask the Texas commission to have Caiz and Van Hoy removed. They were rebuffed. On August 3, the commission announced that the judges would be Caiz, Van Hoy, and C. J. Ross. Ross, of Las Vegas, replaced Yho, whom the commission did agree to remove following

A Decade Of Controversy

Diaz' win over Malignaggi was controversial, but that doesn't make it unique. Not in this business. Presented in chronological order are 20 of the most controversial decisions of the last 10 years, along with the names of the judges who made them so, and the dates and scenes of the crime. (If there was a split decision, we have bolded the judge's name who got it right.) How does Diaz-Malignaggi match up? You be the judge.

Lennox Lewis D 12 Evander Holyfield, 3-13-99, New York, NY
Stanley Christodoulou, Eugenia Williams, Larry O'Connell
Williams got her 15 minutes of fame for all the wrong reasons.

Felix Trinidad W 12 Oscar De La Hoya, 9-18-99, Las Vegas, NV
Jerry Roth, Bob Logist, Glen Hamada
We would have told Oscar he was way ahead too; how do you win the first eight rounds and still lose a 12-round decision?

Willie Jorrin W 12 Oscar Larios, 1-19-01, Sacramento, CA
Ken Morita, Larry Rozadilla, Omar Mintun
Larios' first-round kayo win in the rematch tells you all you need to know.

Paulie Ayala W 12 Hugo Dianzo, 3-30-02, Fort Worth, TX
Samuel Conde-Lopez, Anibal Miramontes, Gale Van Hoy*
We like Paulie as much as the next guy, but he lost this fight. And not by a little.

David Tua D 12 Hasim Rahman, 3-29-03, Philadelphia, PA
Robert Grasso, Bill Clancy, George Hill
The judges must have completed their scorecards when they saw how fat Rahman was; they should have waited for the fight.

Markus Beyer W(S) 12 Eric Lucas, 4-5-03, Leipzig, Germany
Franck Ciminale, Chuck Hassett, **John Keane**
Who did Lucas tick off before this travesty of a mockery of a sham?

Chris Byrd W 12 Fres Oquendo, 9-20-03, Uncasville, CT
Don Ackerman, Steve Epstein, John Lawson
Oquendo, the only heavyweight alive more awkward than Byrd, deserved the win.

Sven Ottke W 12 Robin Reid, 12-13-03, Nuremberg, Germany
Franz Marti, Giulio Mancini, Levi Martinez
Ottke quit after one more fight; he should have quit before this rip-off.

Matt Vanda W 10(S) Sam Garr, 1-16-04, Minneapolis, MN
Jack Hayden, Butch Anderson, **Vern Sweeney**
Classic hometown decision.

Oscar De La Hoya W 12 Felix Sturm, 6-5-04, Las Vegas
Mike Glienna, Paul Smith, Dave Moretti
Sturm could have run over De La Hoya with his Saab and still not gotten the nod.

Courtney Burton W 10(S) Emanuel Augustus, 7-6-04, Muskegon, MI
Robert Paganelli, Ed Mosley, **Jake Jack Richards**
Yes, this is the fight where the local referee took points from Augustus for being, um, better.

Lamon Brewster W 12(S) Kali Meehan, 9-4-04 Las Vegas
Adalaide Byrd, **Dave Moretti,** Nelson Vazquez
This decision put the "lame" in Lamon.

O'Neil Bell W 12 Dale Brown, 5-20-05, Hollywood, FL
Richard Green, Robert Hoyle, Michael Pernick
Brown never contended again, and how can you blame him? This robbery broke his heart and damn near ours too.

Bobby Pacquiao W 10(S) Carlos Hernandez, 10-8-05, Las Vegas
Duane Ford, Chuck Giampa, **Robert Hoyle**
For the Frank Stallone of boxing, this was like winning the lottery, but with a stolen ticket.

protests from Malignaggi's camp. Ross was the only judge that was on a joint list of officials that both promoters had submitted to the commission. (The others were Robert Hoyle, Al Bennett, Michael Pernick, Paul Herman, and Glen Feldman, none of who were appointed to judge the fight.)

On August 14th, according to Rizzo, he received a call from Dickie Cole, who said Ross was unavailable on the day of the fight and would be replaced by Sutherland. Malignaggi's camp immediately objected, but was told the appointments were final and if Malignaggi didn't want the fight he could pull out.

In an attempt to clarify the Texas commission's selection process, for this fight and in general, THE RING contacted Mr. Cole. He refused to answer any questions and directed us to Ms. Susan Stanford, Public Information Officer of the TDLR. We asked her why the commission insisted on appointing Caiz, who is not even a Texas official, when the Malignaggi camp objected and both promoters had submitted a list of acceptable judges that did not include Caiz.

In an email, Ms. Stanford replied, "Boxing judges in Texas are placed in a rotation and are considered for events on that basis. A judge sanctioned by an organization is also taken into consideration if the event is a title fight.

"Raul Caiz was chosen based on TDLR procedure and his experience as a judge with over 40 title fights in the WBC, WBO, IBF, … etc"

We also asked why none of the judges included on the list that was submitted by both camps were chosen to judge the fight, to which Ms. Stanford replied, "TDLR considers requests from promoters and boxer camps, but it is ultimately the decision of the Department to assign ring officials."

Finally, we asked why Van Hoy was appointed when it was very clear that the Malignaggi camp objected strenuously to his selection. This was very important because it was Van Hoy's 118-110 score in favor of Diaz that prompted a significant outcry, even from those who thought Diaz had rightly been named the bout's winner.

Ms. Stanford replied only to say: "Gale Van Hoy's selection was based on his extensive judging experience in boxing, including over 40 title fights in the United States and other countries."

THE RING spoke with Van Hoy two weeks after the bout and asked him if he was aware of Malignaggi's very public

Jesse Brinkley W 5 Anthony Bonsante, 10-15-05, Los Angeles, CA
Raul Caiz, Julie Lederman, Fritz Werner
Bonsante couldn't beat any of the better Contender *contestants, but on this night he beat Brinkley.*

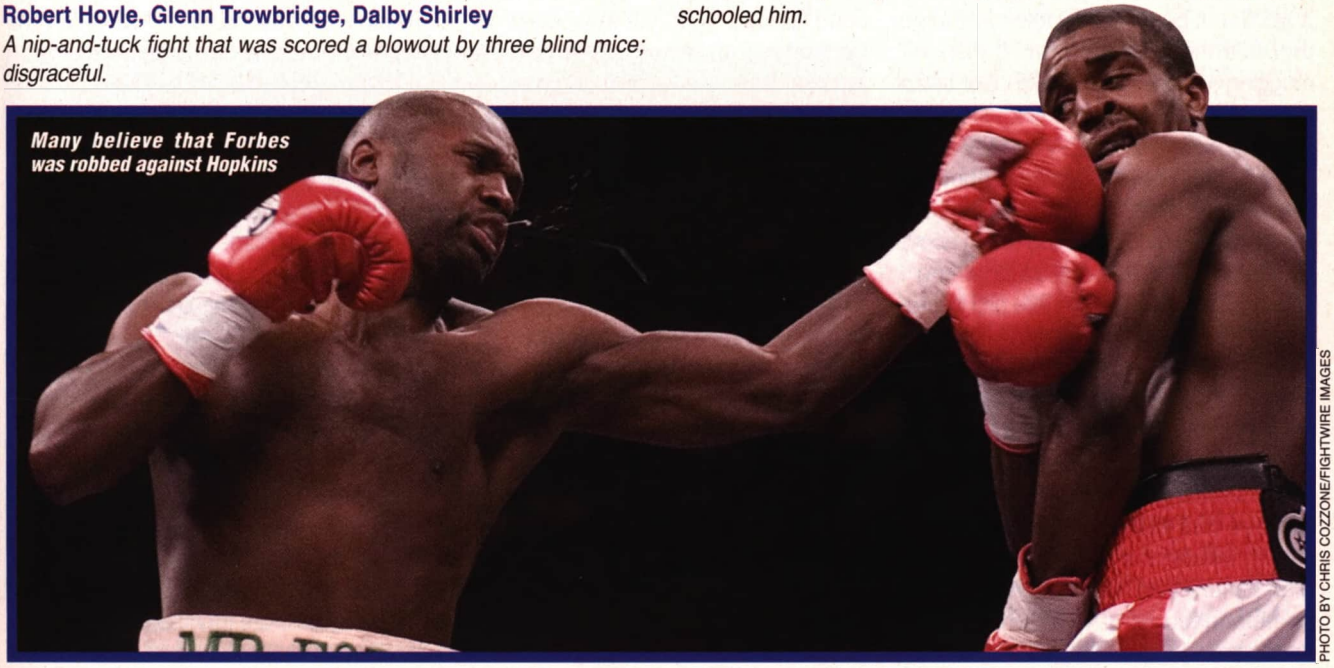
Juan Urango W 12 Naoufel Ben Rabah, 6-30-06, Hollywood, FL
Michael Pernick, Peter Trematerra, John Wright
Ben Rabah falls victim to the boxing rule that says if you have a name that's hard to pronounce and weird, and the other guy has a fight against Ricky Hatton lined up, you lose.

Demetrius Hopkins W 12 Steve Forbes, 3-17-07, Las Vegas, NV
Robert Hoyle, Glenn Trowbridge, Dalby Shirley
A nip-and-tuck fight that was scored a blowout by three blind mice; disgraceful.

Kid Diamond W 12(S) Miguel Huerta, 6-14-07, Rochester, NY
Don Ackerman, Frank Adams, Ruben Garcia
This abomination showed how far a good nickname could take you.

Joel Casamayor W 12(S) Jose Santa Cruz, 11-10-07, New York
Frank Lombardi, Ron McNair, Tony Paolillo
Maybe the most blatant robbery on the list; John Dillinger couldn't have done it any better.

Rocky Juarez D 12 Chris John, 2-28-09, Houston, TX
Tom Miller, Raul Caiz*, Gale Van Hoy*
Sure, we were pulling for Rocky, too, but face it: John pretty much schooled him.



Many believe that Forbes was robbed against Hopkins

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Media Scorecards

Mitch Abramson, New York *Daily News*	115-113	Malignaggi
Nigel Collins, THE RING	116-112	Malignaggi
Jake Donovan, Boxingscene.com	115-113	Malignaggi
Kurt Emhoff, Fightnews.com	115-113	Malignaggi
Bernardo Fallas, *The Houston Chronicle*	116-112	Diaz
Steve Farhood, Showtime	114-114	Draw
Doug Fischer, RingTV.com	115-113	Diaz
Brian Gorman, Ringtalk.com	116-112	Diaz
Lee Groves, Maxboxing.com	114-114	Draw
Jack Hirsch, *Boxing News*	115-113	Malignaggi
Thomas Hauser, Maxboxing.com	114-114	Draw
Keith Idec, New Jersey *Herald News*	115-113	Malignaggi
David Larzelere, HBO.com	114-114	Draw
Harold Lederman, HBO	115-113	Malignaggi
Kevin Iole, Yahoo Sports	115-113	Malignaggi
Dan Rafael, ESPN.com	116-112	Malignaggi
Cliff Rold, Boxingscene.com	115-113	Malignaggi
Mike Rosenthal, RingTV.com	115-113	Malignaggi
Don Steinberg, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*	114-114	Draw
Dan Tomasino, *New York Post*	117-112	Malignaggi
George Willis, *New York Post*	115-113	Malignaggi

statements concerning his appointment. It would not be unreasonable to assume that hearing a fighter predict his own mugging at your hands would color one's ability to remain impartial.

"Yes, I heard that," Van Hoy said. "(There wasn't) any big deal about it. They all say that. It didn't really impress me because I didn't hear too much about it. It didn't impress me as anything I should be involved in, the little bit I heard. I didn't hear much."

This seems unlikely given how much noise Malignaggi made in the days leading up to the fight. Van Hoy also said he had no idea going into the fight that Malignaggi's camp had fought to have him removed, saying, "No, I wasn't aware of that. He (Dickie Cole) didn't share that with me." He seemed dumbfounded as to why they wouldn't want him to judge the fight.

"I did Malignaggi's fights before. I did Lou DiBella's fights all over America—California, Connecticut, Arkansas, Tennessee, and he's never had a problem with me," Van Hoy said. "I did a Malignaggi fight years ago in Arkansas; he was in a 10-rounder or 8-rounder or something. But Dickie Cole didn't say nothing to me. I didn't know that."

He also seemed incredulous that there was a list of judges that had been submitted by both camps, and that things like that even happen.

"You're talking about things I don't have anything to do with or don't even know about. I didn't know there was a list of judges they wanted. Golden Boy had to approve me or I wouldn't have done the fight, I guess."

That last statement echoes information Ms. Stanford at the TDLR supplied in one of her emails, in which she wrote that Ross and Sutherland had been "approved" by Golden Boy. Asked to clarify that statement, and specifically if DiBella Entertainment had the same "approval" powers, she replied: "TDLR was in contact with Golden Boy Productions (sic) and as stated earlier, the Department makes the final ring official assignments."

This would seem to contradict Schaefer's assertion that he had next to nothing to do with the selection of the officials.

"When Malignaggi's camp and Lou DiBella called me and said we have to find a resolution here (about the officials) I said 'Lou, you know very well how that goes, you can ask, you can beg, you can make your case, but at the end of the day, you, as a promoter, and us, as a promoter, we have absolutely no say so on the appointment of officials,'" said Schaefer. "There was nothing we could do and it was totally out of our control."

Schaefer also stressed that controversial decisions are part of the sport and that Golden Boy fighters have been on the wrong end as much as they've been on the right end.

"The fact is sometimes you have fights that go your way, and, talking as a promoter now, sometimes they go against you. When Oscar fought Mayweather that was a close fight, and when Marquez fought (Manny) Pacquiao, most media members thought Marquez won.

"When Oscar fought Tito Trinidad, I haven't met anyone yet, I mean everyone thinks Oscar won that fight, I could go on and on," Schaefer said. "There's a long list of fights. When Shane Mosley fought Cotto the opinion was split (about) who won. The second Bernard Hopkins-Jermain Taylor fight too. So sometimes you win some and sometimes you lose some, and believe me Golden Boy has been more often than not on the other side when it came to close fights."

The upshot of all of this has been a blow to boxing's reputation even among the hardcore who expect it half of the time, but it's also has reinvigorated Malignaggi's stock. His postfight rant to HBO's Max Kellerman, during which he famously screamed, "Boxing is full of s___!" had, at press time, been viewed on YouTube more than 53,000 times. In a sense, the loss has helped him.

"He helped himself," DiBella observed. "He's created a cause celebre here. He prognosticated his own screwing, and then it happened. He gave this incredibly passionate speech in the ring that I think most people related to, and most people who just got screwed wouldn't take it lightly.

"I think he's a bigger star than he might've been if he won a solid 7-5 decision," DiBella said. "Now Paulie's on the radar screen again as opposed to when he sort of fell off it when he had that bad night against Hatton. Yes, the decision wasn't what he wanted, but you know what? HBO's going to pay a really good license fee to have these guys fight again."

That pleases Anthony Catanzaro, Malignaggi's business advisor. "The fight we want is Malignaggi-Diaz II. That's the fight we're working on. That's the fight the fans want. There was a taste to that night and it just wasn't right. It was so wrong."

Malignaggi doesn't really see how the controversy has helped him. He welcomes a rematch, but under terms more favorable to him.

"It's working out in a positive way, but only because I performed. Had I performed and gotten the decision, I still would have been in a better position regardless. I don't think getting screwed helped me in any way. The performance is what helped me, and the performance merited a victory. My performance spoke for itself, but a W would have been better," he said.

Some members of Malignaggi's camp think that the scoring controversy has helped boost his profile, but Malignaggi is not one of them, even though he is expected to get a lucrative rematch.

PHOTO BY JOE CORDOVA/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

"It was only competitive because of the other things they did to me. It was only competitive because the ring was small. Because I had to make 138½ pounds. Can you imagine if the fight was in New York with a 24-foot ring? And give me a judge from New Jersey, a judge from New York, and an Italian judge from Connecticut. And make it 140 pounds instead of a 138½. Juan Diaz doesn't win a half a second of that fight against me. They had all those advantages and still had to rob me to get Diaz a W. That's how much better I am than Juan Diaz."

It would be little consolation to Malignaggi to know that when THE RING asked Van Hoy if he has watched the fight again since judging it live, he replied that he had (with the sound off), and, given the chance again, he might come up with a different score.

"I think if I made a mistake—with my brain, not my heart—rounds nine and 10 could have went either way," he said. "Had I (scored those for Malignaggi) we wouldn't be having this conversation."

That's conceivable. A 116-112 score from Van Hoy would have generated far less heat than did his 118-110 count. But it also would have garnered Malignaggi much less sympathy and support from those outraged at Van Hoy's seeming incompetence, arrogance, or something worse.

As it happened, the sheer lunacy of Van Hoy's score, whatever the cause, was a gift to Malignaggi. It sent him back to Brooklyn with a hope not dissimilar to the one he had when he left: a fight with Juan Diaz and a fair shake. Next time he just might get it. ■

Editor's note: It looks like there will be no "next time." As this issue went to press, THE RING learned that Juan Diaz had turned down HBO's offer for a rematch.

PHOTOS BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

It's part of promoters Richard Schaefer (left) and Lou DiBella's jobs to try to gain an advantage for their fighters. But it is the Texas boxing commission's job to make sure that it is not an unfair advantage.

ALI'S BITTERSWEET RETURN TO ENGLAND

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES

Old foe Henry Cooper raises Ali's arm as they ride in an open-top Mercedes during a public appearance in Windsor (opposite page). Ali also stopped in Manchester, where he visited Ricky Hatton at Hatton's new gym (below). That's Ali's wife, Lonnie, on the far right.

PHOTO BY SAMIR HUSSEIN/WIRE IMAGES

Farewell Tour Evokes Cheers And Tears

By Brian Doogan

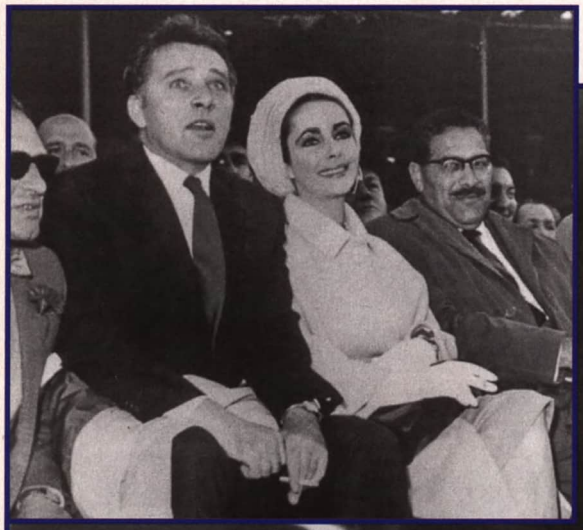
He emerged slowly out of the Mercedes people carrier, a ghost who was once the most visible and vibrant personality in sports surrounded now by a phalanx of security to shield him from uncensored scrutiny. His right hand—the same hand that finished Foreman, punished Patterson, lacerated Liston, and flogged Frazier through three fights that constituted heavyweight boxing's most brutal and enduring rivalry—was tremulous and gnarled and, as he shuffled forward and lowered himself into a chair inside the marquee, wearing a dark suit, white shirt and red tie, and leaning heavily on his wife, Lonnie, followed attentively by his care-giver and sister-in-law, Marilyn Williams. The words of the Shakespearean sonnet echoed eerily through the silent vacuum: *by Time's fell hand defaced.* Muhammad Ali's appearance was haunting and heartbreaking.

This was almost the final act of a disconcertingly controlled production billed as Ali's farewell visit to the United Kingdom, a meeting in the grounds around Windsor Castle with former British, Empire, and European heavyweight champion Sir Henry Cooper. Our 'Enery fought Ali twice in the 1960s, famously flooring him in their first non-title encounter at Wembley Stadium with his left hook ('Enery's 'Ammer), which might have altered the course of history. The punch landed two seconds before the bell to end the fourth round rang just as Ali rose zombie-like from the canvas and walked groggily towards his corner.

Playfully and poignantly, Cooper posed with his left hand aimed at Ali's chin and, as the single approved photographer's camera clicked, the 67-year-old three-time world heavyweight champion's entire body shook uncontrollably, a legacy of the Parkinson's Syndrome he fights daily and of the accumulation of left hooks and overhand rights he withstood for 21 years in the prize ring and in gym wars that were needless and neurologically destructive.

"He was a tremendous character, a really dynamic personality and without a doubt the most charismatic athlete the world has ever seen," Cooper, British boxing's first knight of the realm, reflected after being reunited with Ali. "I hadn't seen him for 15 or 20 years, and when you see him in the state he's in now you start to think about whether you might be responsible in some way for the condition he is in. I don't think I am responsible and I certainly hope not, but it's very sad that a man who was so full of life is unable to communicate and express himself to the world. It's heartbreaking. Every so often he kind of woke up and, playfully, threw a few punches in my direction as we sat alongside one another, but for the most part it was sad, very sad."

Remarkably, Ali's tremors stopped completely when two babies were passed into his lap as a small, select audience—kept at bay by the burly bodyguards, who reiterated firmly, "No cameras"—gathered round. Then he and Cooper made their way to an open-topped car that paraded them in front of a sparsely filled arena at the Alltech



Cooper drops Ali in the fourth round of their June 1963 match in London. Later, Ali claimed that he was distracted by the sight of Elizabeth Taylor (inset), who was sitting ringside with Richard Burton at Wembley Stadium.

Giddy-up: Ali runs alongside a four-horse carriage during early morning roadwork when he returned to London in 1966 to fight Cooper a second time.

FEI (Fédération Equestre Internationale) European Jumping and Dressage Championships. His eyes remained hidden behind dark glasses, his upper body slumped slightly to his left and his hands trembled violently until Cooper lent over and gently placed his hands on Ali's, which appeared to have a tranquilizing effect. The crowd applauded, cheered, and chanted Ali's name, mirroring the reaction his presence stirred when he appeared at Ricky Hatton's gym on the outskirts of Manchester two days earlier and at fundraising dinners in aid of the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville and other charities at Manchester United's Old Trafford Stadium and Stoke City's Britannia Stadium, where guests paid up to $1,600 to attend. Although physically diminished, Ali was determined to complete the grueling tour, for the U.K. and its fans have always held a special place in his heart.

"I was with him when we flew into London in 1966 and when Ali emerged into Piccadilly Circus, and it was the same every time he would walk out of the Piccadilly Hotel for the next few weeks, people went nuts," recalled Bob Arum, who promoted Ali's world title bout with Cooper. "There were thousands of people cheering and screaming for him, and it was like that everywhere we went. So here was Ali, a pariah in his own country, denounced as a traitor because he had spoken out against the Vietnam War and the draft, he came over to England and was seen as this larger-than-life, Pied Piper figure. People wanted to touch him and they followed him everywhere, almost like he was a deity. When he went running in Hyde Park in the morning, the paparazzi were everywhere trying to get his picture. An American film crew was there, filming *The Dirty Dozen*, so Ali would meet up with Jim Brown, and we just had a riot.

"We were stunned by all of this. You have to remember that three months earlier they had to have a vote in the Ontario parliament to determine whether or not they would allow Ali to fight George Chuvalo in Toronto, Canada—like it was their business—and we only won by one vote and had to use political pressure to get it. So coming to London was like a breath of fresh air, and Ali never ever forgot it. It felt like we had escaped from prison in the U.S. Ali's impish charm could suddenly come out again; he could say outrageous things and the media and people in the U.K. loved it. That's why Ali went back. He has never forgotten the following he had in the U.K. and the way in which he was treated at a time when his stock in America could hardly have been lower."

Still, Ali's first visit hardly hinted at this almost life-lasting love affair.

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In the early days of June 1963, President John F. Kennedy delivered an historic address in which he promised

a Civil Rights Bill calling for "the kind of equality of treatment [for African Americans] that we [the majority white population] would want for ourselves." President Ngo Dinh Diem's unpopular regime in South Vietnam was threatened by the U.S. government with economic sanctions, and in Saigon a Buddhist monk, Thích Quảng Dức, set fire to himself and burnt to death at a busy road intersection in protest at the treatment of Buddhists by Diem's administration. Escalation of conflicts that would define the times, and would feature Ali in the vanguard, was imminent as 21-year-old Cassius Clay breezed brashly into Isow's restaurant in London's Soho district and came face-to-face with Cooper, "nothing more than a tramp, a bum, and a cripple who must fall in five rounds or I won't return to the United States for 90 days." The assembled members of Her Majesty's Press were not amused.

"We looked at one another and thought, *who is this loudmouthed upstart?* Everybody detested him immediately," declared Colin Hart, the doyen of British boxing reporters who had just begun to cover the sport for *The Sun* newspaper. "What turned us all off was his incessant bragging, which was anathema to the British stiff-upper-lip notion that sportsmanship was paramount. You just didn't denigrate your opponent, and here was a guy who couldn't stop himself from doing so every time his lips moved. We were appalled."

Cooper insisted that, "he annoyed the press more than me … I just looked at him and laughed." Only once did Clay pause to draw breath in Isow's before resuming his verbal assault and that was when he was confronted by the sight of Cooper's twin brother, Jim, across the room. "Man, I thought I just seen a ghost," he cried with mock horror in his eyes. *The Daily Mirror*'s Peter Wilson summed up his performance: "Oh Blimey! He came, he saw, he talked. How Cassius talked. There has never been anything like it. If Clay fights one half as fast as he talks, either Cooper will go out in record time or the kayo king from Kent will fall down exhausted and breathless."

Clay's roadwork in Hyde Park began at 5 AM on the following morning, his sparring was done at the Drill Hall of the 10th Parachute Battalion in White City, and in the evening he attended the middleweight title bout between British champion George Aldridge and Mick Leahy, which Leahy won inside one round. The next day's sparring was interrupted by a visit from Nigeria's minister for labor and sport, Chief J. H. Johnson, and after a trip to see Relko win the Epsom Derby, a convivial Clay wearing an evening suit and bow tie sat down with David Coleman in BBC TV's *Sportsview* studios for a live interview.

"I'm only here to mark time before I annihilate that big, ugly bear who holds the title, Sonny Liston," he told the show's huge audience. "Liston is too ugly to be a fighter. Real fighters are pretty like me. I'm so fast I can turn out the light and be in bed before it's dark. There are two greats, Britain and Clay, and on June 18 I want y'all come see."

Then Coleman began a question: "I'm a Cooper fan and I know most British people are … "—which he felt compelled to cut short when confronted by the icy stare from the man opposite. "I thought you were for me! I didn't have to come here, you know," Clay bellowed. "I should be in bed right now. I'm going." And off he went. To the British public, the heavyweight contender from Louisville, Kentucky, was nothing more than a diversionary amusement, a vaudeville act, Charlie Chaplin with sound.

"The idea that he would be world champion one day was too laughable for words," asserted Harry Carpenter, the BBC's respected boxing commentator for 40 years. "A man who spouted poems and jigged around the ring like a lightweight, dropping his hands, he just couldn't be taken seriously—and he wasn't."

The pantomime continued at the London Palladium where, despite the rain, almost 2,000 people queued up in the morning to see the weigh-in. In his dressing room, Clay borrowed an ankle-length, red satin robe with faux ermine trim belonging to Susan Maughan, a popular English singer of the time, which he wore onto the stage along with a crown left over from the Christmas pageant.

"You got a queen over here, but you people need a king," he proclaimed. "I am the king!" The crowd jeered as he held up five fingers. "I ain't talkin' jive, Cooper must fall in five," he continued, and struck Charles Atlas poses. They booed again when he came to the Wembley ring wearing the same regalia, announced to the 35,000 in attendance by six scarlet-clad trumpeters from the Coldstream

Guards. In the damp and lingering twilight sat Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor.

"Cleopatra was at ringside!" Clay would recount in verse, and catching sight of the actress became his cheery alibi for the lapse in concentration near the end of the fourth round which caused the first serious crisis of his career as Cooper's left hook dumped the king on his regal ass. But for the bell intervening to end the round, who knows what might have been? One thing is certain: With his fighter's senses scrambled, the quickest-thinking person that night in north London was trainer Angelo Dundee.

"It's a myth that I gained my guy an extra five or six minutes by causing such a commotion in the corner and making the secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control send to the dressing rooms for a new pair of gloves," Dundee recollected. "But he got a few extra seconds before the bell rang for the fifth round and this was all the time in the world in the circumstances. When he staggered back to the corner—with my guidance because I jumped in the ring as soon as the bell rang—he looked out of it. So Chickie Ferrara got to work with the smelling salts under his nose and some ice down his pants, and I suddenly thought of the small split along the seam of one of his gloves that I had noticed when putting the gloves on him in the dressing room. So I stuck my little pinkie into the tear and made it bigger, and that's when I called over the referee [Tommy Little] and any official-looking guy I could lay my eyes on around the ring to examine this defective glove. 'We need a new pair of gloves,' I yelled.

"Meanwhile, Cassius is coming round, the officials are in a state of flux and, finally, the referee says to me that there are no other gloves. 'Don't worry,' I told him. 'These will be fine.' My guy didn't need minutes to recover, as I have seen reported down the years, but those few extra seconds of pandemonium added onto the minute's rest were vital [the interval lasted 65 seconds]. He came out for the fifth round fully recovered, within seconds he worsened the cuts around Cooper's eyes with stinging combinations and before you knew it the fight was over. The referee stopped it because of the blood, which was pouring down Cooper's face."

This was a familiar end for a boxer who bled like a hemophiliac. The verdict on Clay's performance was influenced more by the fourth-round knockdown and the unconvincing action that preceded it than the caustic climax.

"Any suggestion that Clay—fast though he is and clever at blocking and swaying out of range—should be matched with Sonny Liston in the near future should be laughed out of the rings of the world," Wilson concluded in the *Daily Mirror*. "Bombast and fast reflexes are not enough to succeed in heavyweight boxing," wrote the man from *The Times*. Clay left with a $62,000 share of the gate, but his reputation was not enhanced.

It required the shock overthrow of the ogre, Liston, the mounting hostilities in Vietnam, which became increasingly unpopular internationally, Ali's conversion to Islam, his stoic anti-war stance, and descent to pariah-like status in his own country to bring about the sea change in opinion in Britain where Ali was feted on his return in 1966 to defend the world heavyweight title against Cooper.

"It was crazy," Dundee declared. "We couldn't walk outside because he was mobbed wherever he went. We used to go to a restaurant in London, and one night we weren't able to move our car away because some people in the crowd had taken the air out of the tires. Muhammad just ran back to the hotel, followed, literally, by hundreds of people. Cooper was still their guy, of course, but they loved Muhammad."

He charmed the nation on the *Eamonn Andrews TV Show* and in two dispatches for *The Observer* newspaper, one from Ali's training camp in Miami and another after his arrival in London. Hugh McIlvanney, Britain's most celebrated sports-writer, conveyed an impression of the 24-year-old champion that contrasted completely with the convictions of Jimmy Cannon in the *New York Journal-American*. "Clay is part of the Beatle movement," Cannon wrote. "He fits in with the famous singers no one can hear and the punks riding motorcycles with iron crosses pinned to their leather jackets ... and the revolt of students who get a check from Dad every first of the month ... and the whole pampered style-making cult of the bored young."

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES

Then and now: Ali is mobbed by fans who turned out to welcome him as he arrived at London's Piccadilly Hotel in May '66 (opposite page). A whole new generation of fans was on hand to see The Greatest when he visited Manchester this August (above).

McIlvanney noted how he interacted with children and portrayed his personal evolution: "He cannot let one pass without trying to establish a personal relationship [and] ... leaving him, I had the wild thought that if Henry Cooper stayed at home on May 21 and sent along his young son, Henry Marco, Muhammad Ali might give him the title as a present. When he arrived [in London] last week, the quiet dignity of his entrance astonished many who still thought of him as the Louisville Lip, the master of egotistical hyperbole. ("Sonny Liston would rather be dropped in the middle of Vietnam with a pea-shooter 'fore he'd fight me again.") ... Now there is evidence that his private world is less secure than it was. Such experiences as the hounding he has suffered in the U.S. following his Vietnam pronouncements, which is one reason why Britain is having its first heavyweight title fight since 1908, and the costly divorce from his wife, Sonji, precipitated by his Muslim convictions have brought on something that looks like maturity."

In the ring this maturity manifested itself in a more cynical display, Cooper's scything hook rendered obsolete by Ali's holding whenever they got close, before a clash of heads and a torrent of leather drew blood, inevitably, from the soft tissue around the challenger's eyes.

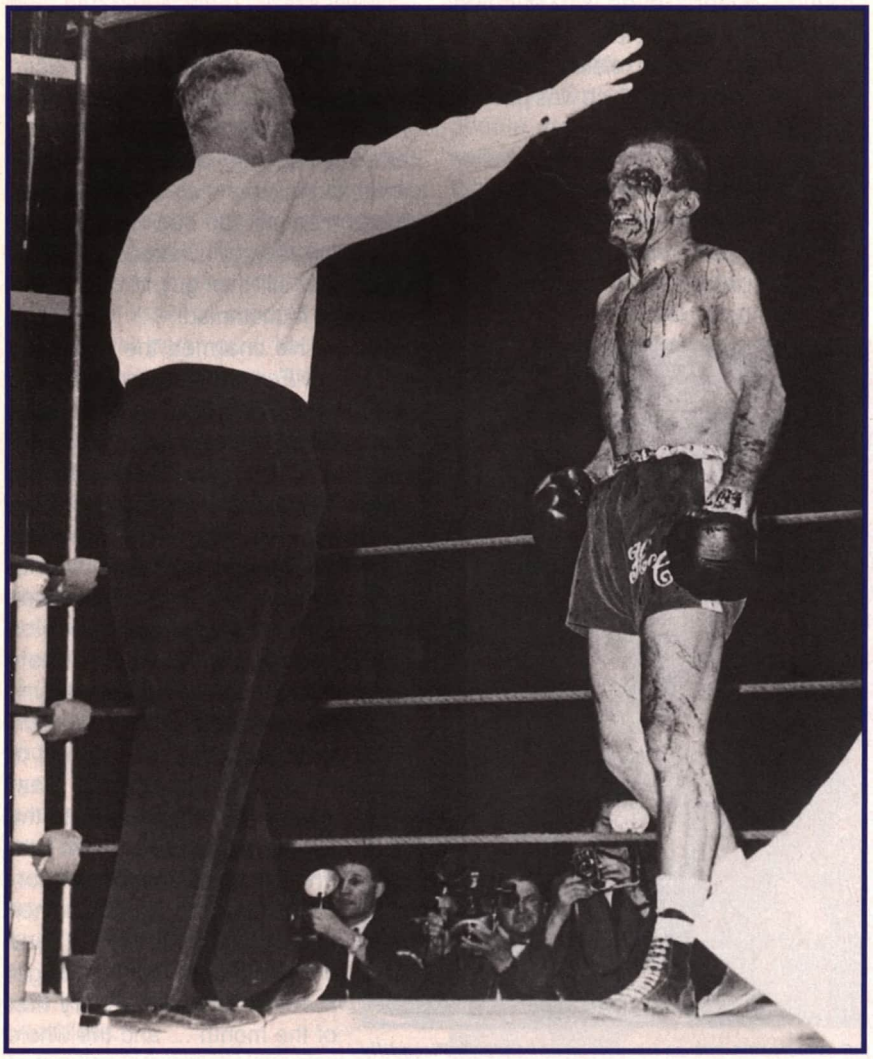
"Man, I could hear him bleeding," was the champion's vivid account. The showdown at Highbury ended in round six and so pleased was Ali by his welcome, and so ostracized in America, that he returned three months later to defend his title for the fifth time against Brian London, an unsophisticated brawler who, if he had any semblance of ambition at any time about winning the title, left his courage at the dressing room door after overhearing Ali from the adjacent dressing room speak scornfully of his chances.

"They were separated in makeshift dressing rooms by nothing more than a plastic board, so London heard Ali's vitriol when he was being interviewed for TV while his hands were being wrapped and he went to pieces completely," Hart related. "I remember writing that I could hear Brian London's knees knocking above the noise of the national anthem. Brian laughs now about how Ali's illness can never be blamed on him—"I never laid a glove on him."

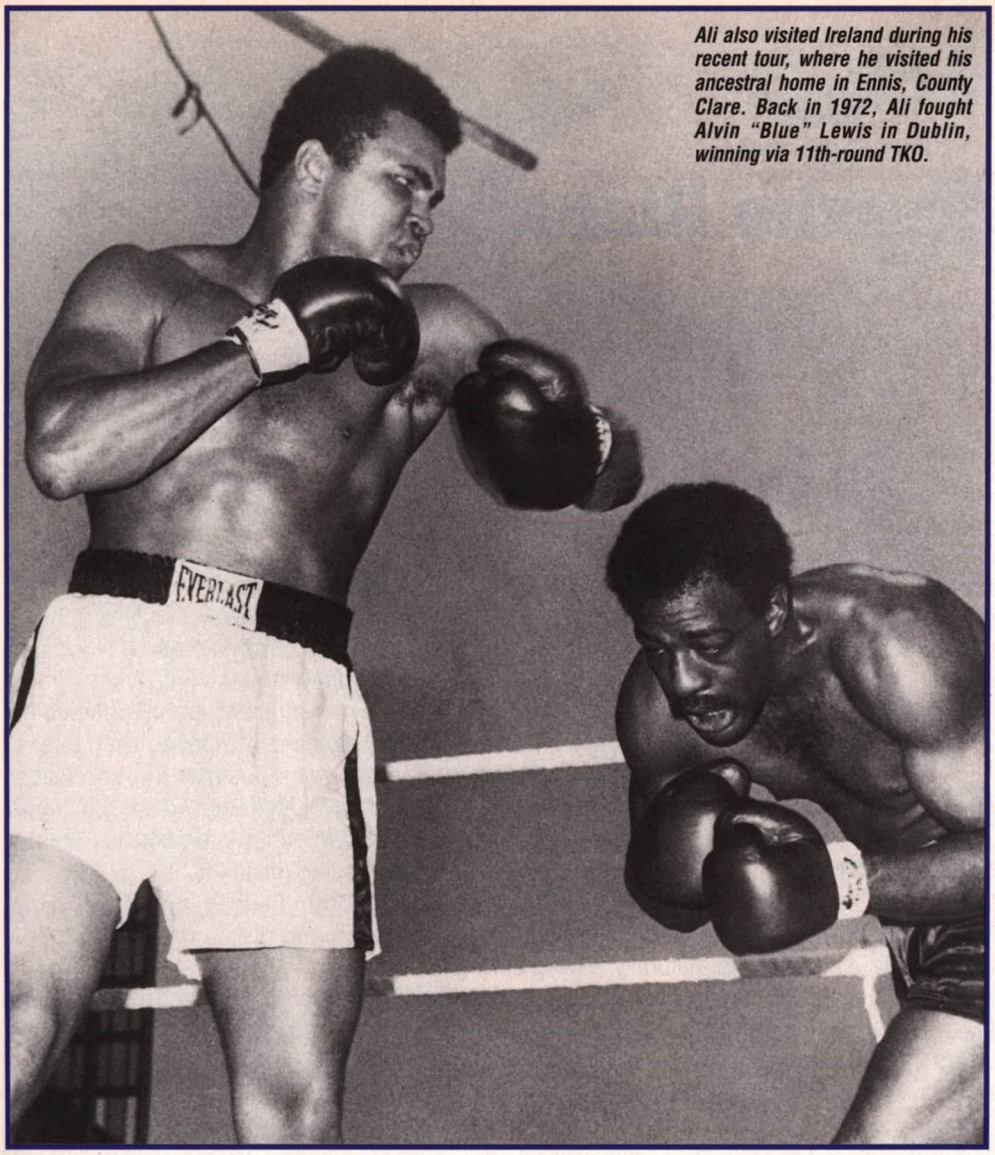
Ali had fought British, Empire, and European champions Joe Bugner (twice) and Richard Dunn in the intervening years and his oratory skills brought regular appearances on Britain's TV chat shows, most notably Michael Parkinson's. In 1974, after regaining the heavyweight championship from George Foreman, Parkinson engaged Ali in a memorably explosive interview. Quoting from Budd Schulberg's book, *Loser And Still Champion*, emphasized the inherent contradiction in Ali surrounding himself with many white friends while espousing a religion whose leader in America, Elijah Muhammad, preached racial separatism.

"It's a fact that white people hate black people ... and you do not have enough wisdom to corner me on television," Ali retorted in a wild and prolonged rant. "Budd Schulberg says you got white men working in your camp and you teach that white men are devils ... you can read this damn book all you want. I didn't know you had a book waiting for me and were going to ask me all this. Behind stage you're so nice and we have a nice talk, then you get me on TV ... this is a serious thing you got me with."

Parkinson reflected: "I sat listening to his rant, wondering how to deal with it and decided all I could sensibly do was sit tight until the eruption of anger abated ... The interview lurched to an end with both of us sitting back in our seats displaying the kind of body language that left no doubt about what one was thinking of the other. After the show he left with his entourage without a goodbye, and I remember



Although Ali didn't get knocked down in the Cooper rematch, the fight ended up petty much the same—with the Englishman being stopped due to a horrific cut.



Ali also visited Ireland during his recent tour, where he visited his ancestral home in Ennis, County Clare. Back in 1972, Ali fought Alvin "Blue" Lewis in Dublin, winning via 11th-round TKO.

feeling, regretfully, that it would be unlikely if we met again. But we did. The last time I interviewed Ali was in 1981, and he had become what he believed he would never be, a casualty of the fight game, yet another boxer who hung on for too long and took too many punches to the head. The eyes were dull and his marvelously expressive face a mask. I found it a sad and dispiriting experience."

Some people felt the same way about his recent visit. "Muhammad Ali is my biggest boxing hero and, to be honest, I've really been saddened about all of this. I just don't see why one of the greatest and most colorful athletes who ever lived has to get on a plane with Parkinson's disease and fly all over the world for money," said Naseem Hamed, Britain's former IBF/WBC featherweight titleholder. "I think it's absolutely disgraceful, it's terrible and I'm sad about it. I actually went to Manchester to see him and was in his hotel suite. I also saw him when he was here in 2000, and I could make conversation with him then, he knew who I was. I had a good laugh with him. But when it came to visiting him this time, he didn't even know who I was. He is just a shell of the man he was, and it's so sad that a man this ill has to be shipped about from place to place for money. It's terrible. He should be at home; he should be in care. He should be looked after. The whole world does not need to see Muhammad Ali at his worst point like this. The whole world shouldn't see him. He should stay dignified and at home in care and people looking after him. But this is not the case."

Yet Ali's trip would not end on a sad note. On the way back he stopped off in Ireland to visit his ancestral home in Ennis, County Clare, and was taken to a site on Turnpike Road where his great grandfather Abe Grady lived before he immigrated to America in the 1860s. Grady sailed from Cappa Harbour in Kilrush before settling in Kentucky where he married an African-American woman. Their son also married an African-American and had a daughter who was named Odessa Lee Grady, Ali's mother. Ali first came to Ireland in 1972 when he fought Al "Blue" Lewis at Croke Park in Dublin, and he returned in 2003 when he appeared with Nelson Mandela at the Special Olympics. But he had never been to Ennis where a "Celebrating The Greatest" day of festivities took place before Ali was made the first Freeman of the town.

When he arrived at the Turnpike, he got out of his car and, unaided, walked to the monument erected by the roadside to commemorate his visit. In an impromptu gesture, he shook hands with cerebral palsy sufferer Liam Mulcahy, who is wheelchair-bound, and struck poses for some of the 15,000 in the crowd who had come from all corners of Ireland.

"In that unique Irish way they made Muhammad feel deep down like an Ennis man, and he was proud to be here today," said his wife, Lonnie. Ali did not speak, but there was a smile on his face and almost a twinkle in his eye. He did not shake. Imelda O'Grady, a distant cousin, came forward and presented him with a shield, the crest of the O'Grady clan containing three lions rampant above the motto: "Wounded, not Defeated." ■

Brian Doogan is THE RING's European correspondent.

Naazim Richardson

"This Is All Gravy To Me"

Naazim Richardson won't give his age, only that he's in his 40s, his early-40s, he stresses. He looks older. When he speaks, his words come wrapped in a wisdom that's beyond his age. Especially when he speaks to fighters.

They listen.

Richardson has been waiting a long time for someone to listen, and after working with former world champions Bernard Hopkins and Shane Mosley, and former cruiserweight titlist Steve Cunningham, the rest of the boxing world is paying a lot more attention to the Philadelphia-based trainer than ever before.

Richardson, who heads a boxing program called the Concrete Jungle Boxing Tribe, which featured his sons, former Olympian Rock Allen and his twin brother, Tiger, and future pro, Bear Richardson, has emerged as one of the best trainers in the world. He's also one of the hottest, having directed Mosley to an emphatic victory over Antonio Margarito, working with Cunningham in his victory over Wayne Braithwaite, and helping Hopkins to his one-sided triumph over middleweight world champion Kelly Pavlik.

Richardson's famous line is "Swim without getting wet," and it's something he's instilled in all of his fighters, even Hopkins, Mosley, and Cunningham.

A month after Cunningham beat Braithwaite, THE RING Managing Editor Joseph Santoliquito spoke with Richardson, who talked candidly about the Felix Trinidad and Antonio Margarito handwrap controversies, what his recent ride has been like, and what inspired him to become a trainer.

Santoliquito reports: "Naazim is a proud grandfather now, wearing a T-shirt with his grandson A. J.'s picture on the front. He's a walking boxing encyclopedia, who's also engaging, humorous, and above all, a teacher of a sport where teaching is a dying craft."

The Ring: What first attracted you to boxing?

Naazim Richardson: I fought in the amateurs and, naturally, seeing boxing on TV. Everyone in the Germantown section of North Philly either played basketball or they boxed. I used to go to the Wissahickon Boys Club, and they had everything there. I played basketball, boxed, football. I even played hockey. They didn't take us to the ice rink *(laughs)*; we roller-skated back then. The Happy Hollow Rec Center wasn't too far from there and they had boxing there too.

The Ring: Were you any good?

NR: I was a decent fighter. I was a worker. It's funny because as you grow to understand the sport more and more, you realize what the guys didn't teach you growing up. I got some training, but it seemed odd to me that I knew more about what I needed to do than the guys who were supposed to be teaching me.

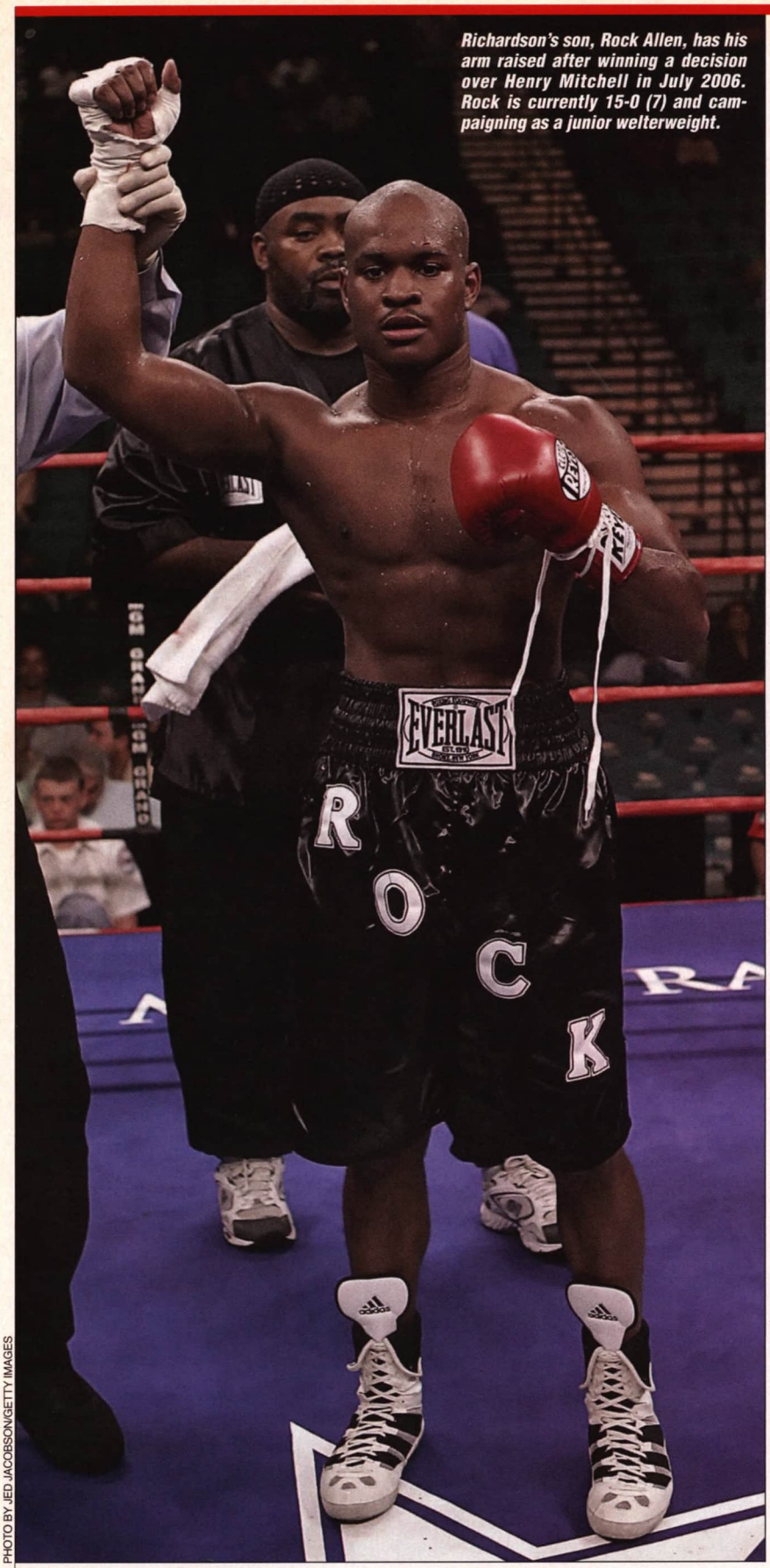
The first time I got into the sport was when I was around eight, nine years old. I was wide open to a lot of things when I was that age. I went through a lot of things, too, like a number of juvenile institutions. By the time I reached my teens, I got locked up for armed robbery. That took away everything. I got sent to an institution called New Castle in upstate Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh. My mother [Leah Richardson], who I just lost in October, used to say to me I don't deserve the good kids that I have. My father was around, but he died when I was around 12. Yeah, I made some mistakes.

The Ring: People who know you today might have a difficult time believing that?

NR: I saw this one guy recently who saw Bernard and me in the corner together during a TV fight. The guy wasn't surprised at all that we were together. He was just surprised that we weren't cellmates together *(laughs)*.

I know what it took to get me here. People, when they first hear about my past, are surprised by my history and what I've gone through. People wear their history like a badge. I don't, but some do. It helps some guys knowing where they were. I suppose it's what makes Bernard very rare. He wasn't proud of where he came from, but he didn't forget where he came from and didn't want to go back. When he came home, there were some guys on the street making real money, and I mean *real, real* money back then in the street game. They would have loved to have had someone like Bernard by their side, watching their back, and would have paid him great money to do it. But he walked away. He saw something more and never lost focus of that. That's where

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND



Richardson's son, Rock Allen, has his arm raised after winning a decision over Henry Mitchell in July 2006. Rock is currently 15-0 (7) and campaigning as a junior welterweight.

PHOTO BY JED JACOBSON/GETTY IMAGES

me and Bernard have a lot in common. I never wanted to go back.

The Ring: How old were you when you got out and how did the experience change you?

NR: I was in my late-teens and the circumstances forced me to change. I was a father. I had real responsibilities. Rock and Tiger were babies, walking around behind me like little ducklings. For the short time I had him, I had a great father. I wanted to be that great father to Rock and Tiger. Here's the thing I emphasize: I didn't want to be their best friend; I wanted to be *their father*. It was a different title. I had to change. I had no choice.

I was in for 2½ years, and during that time I educated myself with a lot of reading. Being in prison calms you down and makes you reflect on looking forward. It did with me.

What has to be pointed out is this idea that if you grow up in the hood and do some of the things I did, you come from a bad household. It's something everyone inside and outside the community thinks, and sometimes it's not true. It wasn't in my case. I had great parents. I was taught right from wrong since I was a baby. In the hood, you have parents who are active in their children's lives and work diligently with them. But once those kids step outside, they get caught up and struggle down a crazy path. It's what happened to me. I was bright in school to a point where I didn't apply myself fully, but I would pass every semester. I would even get an A at times and I didn't have the proper kind of focus. It's why in boxing I'm blessed with dealing with guys like Bernard Hopkins and Shane Mosley. They're able to maintain their same focus for so long to stay on top.

The Ring: What was the first step for you in getting back on the right path?

NR: Accepting Allah. All success is Allah's success, only the mistakes are mine. I got a job working in the hospital system for a long time, managing housekeeping. It was something steady. I felt anything I attempted to do, I had to be the best at it. Once I learned the rules of it and my way around, I had to be the best at it, but not beat up on anyone to get to the top.

It's a matter of knowing where you are and how far you have to walk. It's

why I never understand why boxing is the only sport where trainers belittle and berate other trainers. We all want to be the best at it. We all work hard and learn. But you'll notice that never happens in any other sport. Everything you do, you have mutual respect for the other guy. I don't care what it is they do. It should be that way in boxing. There should be mutual respect with all and every trainer. You never hear Lakers' coach Phil Jackson rip the coach of the other team because the Lakers won another title.

The Ring: What inspired you to become a trainer?

NR: You always have to respect the sport and the people who came before you. I was around a lot of guys who I learned from. Watching guys like Mr. Al Fennell, Mr. Bouie Fisher, Mr. Cheese, a trainer down Champ's Gym, but no one ever knew his name, we just knew him as Mr. Cheese *(laughs)*. Guys like the late Mr. Sam Hickman, and Mr. Howard McCall, guys like that. They were real teachers. Mr. Stan Williams is another one.

I remember watching Mr. Williams bring along Nate Miller from the amateurs on up. That's where the real molding takes place. That's what drew me closer to boxing. Then there was old man Mr. Booker. Again, I never knew his first name. The old-timers called him Mr. Booker and that's how we knew him. I would watch all these guys work with their fighters and I'd watch them like a sponge.

The Ring: Is this what eventually led you into training fighters?

NR: It did. I would see things that other people didn't see. You start looking more and more into things, and wish you were protected like this or like that. I could see strategies that could be worked out. That's what started it all. A cousin of mine named Jeff Gant was a fighter, and I used to help him all of the time. In fact, he came from the same prison system with Bernard. He was one of the first guys who I started working with who listened to me. I don't know why training athletes came so easily to me, but it did. I realized how I could help athletes. But I have to stress this: One thing I won't do is work with an athlete if I don't think I can help the guy. I won't step into the project if what I'm teaching doesn't fit that particular fighter, where sometimes you see some trainers do that.

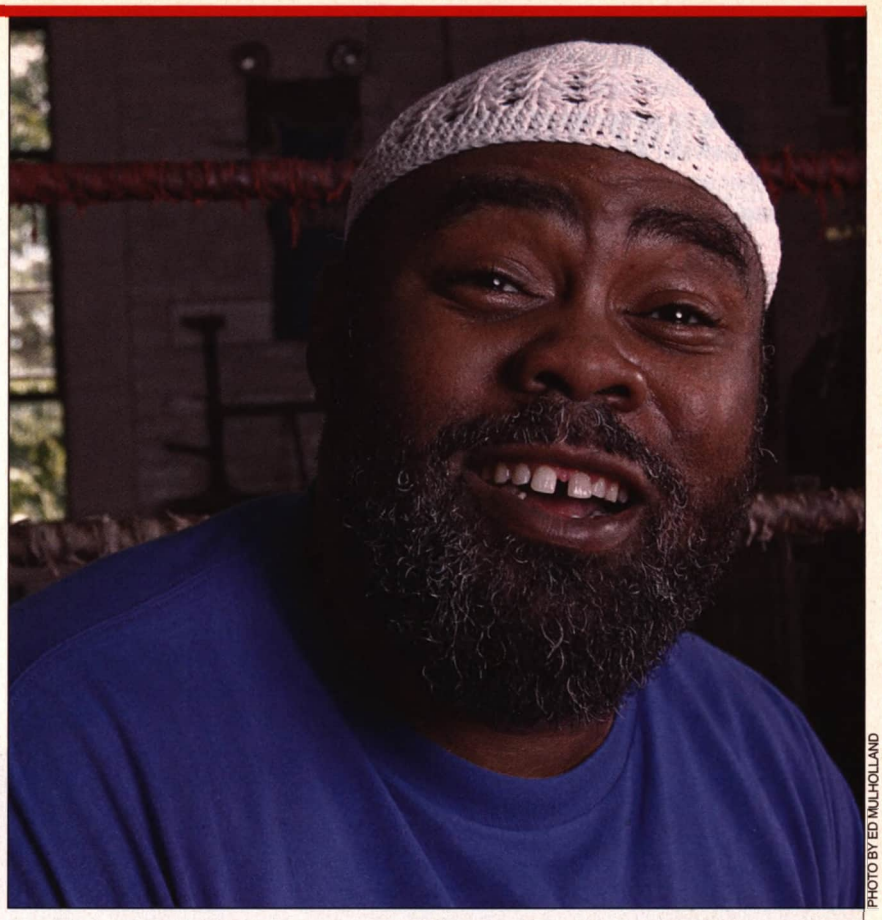


PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

"I saw this one guy recently who saw Bernard and me in the corner together during a TV fight. The guy wasn't surprised at all that we were together. He was just surprised that we weren't cellmates together."

The Ring: When did you see it as a career?

NR: When Bouie or Mr. Williams told me to talk to this guy or that guy. If they had confidence in me to do that, why not step up and do it myself? They gave me that kind of confidence and told me when I was doing a good job. They trusted me at the highest level. I gained their confidence and that brought out a confidence in myself. I talked to older trainers and learned from their perspective.

The Ring: Was anyone more influential than the others?

NR: Probably Bouie more than anyone else. I actually got to work close with Bouie. I always felt that Bouie taught me more about family than about boxing. It was like Bouie was a teacher of life with how he saw things and how he related to people. Bouie had Sugar Ray Robinson in his heart. He adored Sugar Ray. He actually had a sash of Sugar Ray's.

I used to tease Bouie that Sugar Ray never fought my man, Charley Burley *(laughs)*. He'd shake his head and give me a look *(laughs)*. You could never say anything negative about Sugar Ray to Bouie.

The Ring: What did you learn from Bouie?

NR: He is a great man. I learned from his demeanor. My demeanor is so much dif-

ferent than his. I'll get in your face. Bouie was much more laid back than I am. He taught me to be patient and look at things from a wider range, to see things maybe other people can't see.

The Ring: Are the two of you still close?

NR: I respect Bouie. I'll always respect and be grateful to Bouie. But I haven't been able to get in contact with Bouie lately. I'd like to. One of his sons said to me recently that they wanted to bring him to the gym and see me.

The Ring: Excuse the pun, but it seems your keen eye thrust you into the eye of two of the biggest controversies of this century?

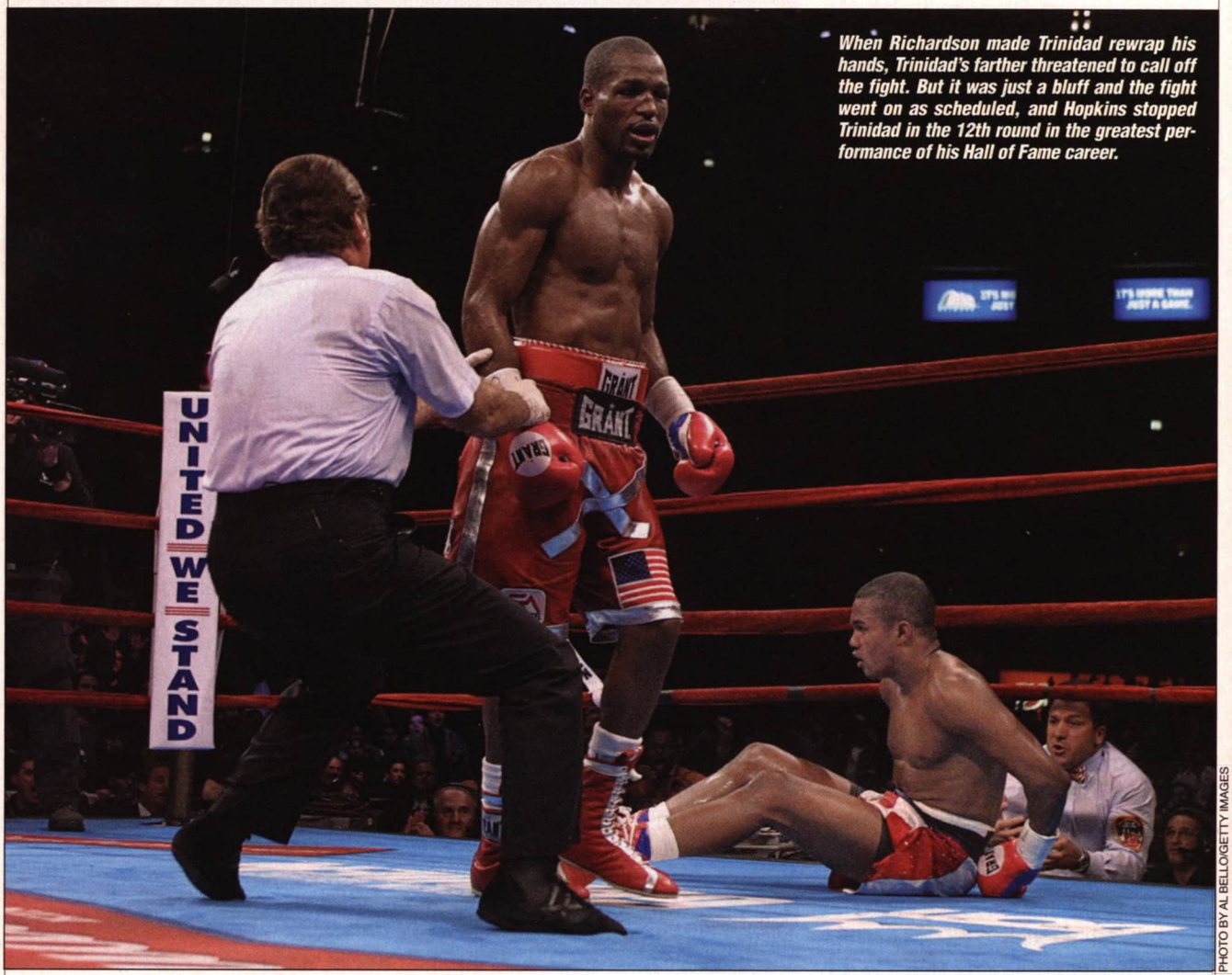
NR: Yea, funny how that works *(laughs)*. I look at both incidents as part of doing my job. I don't see it as anything big or that I was out to make history. But when the Trinidad thing happened, my family called and asked me why they were interviewing other people about the hand wraps while I was the only one in Trinidad's locker room and saw what happened. I'm part of Team Hopkins. I'm not about taking credit for anything. I just saw it as doing my job. What happened in both the Trinidad and Margarito cases might just come from raising my kids and nephews, watching every little thing, from seeing the way guys have taped their hands. But we were right there, certainly part of bigger history than the Trinidad fight.

The Ring: In what way?

NR: We were there the day in Manhattan when the terrorists struck on 9/11. It's something you can never forget. Rock and Tiger had a morning run that day, and Rock comes in and says they're filming a movie down the street, because that's what it looked like to us watching from the hotel window. We saw people on the roof looking at the smoke coming from the plane that hit the first tower. We didn't know what was going on yet. We went out on the street and there was a state of confusion, because people didn't really believe what they were seeing. Then I saw the second plane hit the second tower. That was it.

I ran up to the hotel room, we put on the TV to find out what was happening and the phone rang. By this time, Bouie's son, James, called me and said, "Man, do you see what's going on, we're getting out of here!"

Of course, Bernard says, "Let's go train in the Bronx, they won't bomb the Bronx." By then, we knew everything that was going on, and Bernard thought they weren't going to bomb the hood. Bernard trained that day. We were able to get to the Bronx. The strange thing



When Richardson made Trinidad rewrap his hands, Trinidad's farther threatened to call off the fight. But it was just a bluff and the fight went on as scheduled, and Hopkins stopped Trinidad in the 12th round in the greatest performance of his Hall of Fame career.

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

was, we were training not too far from the Twin Towers. We could have been down there. If the terrorists struck later in the afternoon, we would have been down there.

The Ring: Did you think the fight was going to be cancelled?

NR: We thought the fight was going to be cancelled from the original date, but we didn't know it would come back that fast [on September 29]. When we came back to train for the postponed date, they let us go back to that same gym near the Twin Towers. Down there, you look around and you think about the lives that were lost and it was just crazy. I think it says a lot about the kind of focus Bernard has. We had a ton of distractions around us.

I'll never forget the last day I was working the pads with Bernard and I was thrilled he was getting the chance to perform. I was cheating *(laughs)*, trying to hit him with things. I couldn't touch him. If I were a betting man, I wouldn't have ever thought Trinidad would go that far into the fight. Bernard was in a zone, and the strange thing is, you get so locked in, you lose your focus. The fight became like a glorified sparring session. We knew the power Trinidad had. And you waited and waited each round to see if Trinidad, who was explosive, was going to get something in. Swim without getting wet, swim without getting wet. That is hit and not get hit. By the 12th round, Bernard was sitting in the corner and he asked me what round it was. I told him the 12th. I'll never forget when he turned and said to me, "I'm going to knock him out." He knew.

The Ring: But it almost never happened because of you, right?

NR: Yeah *(laughs and rolls his eyes)*. Because of me *(laughs)*. I was the one who wanted to see Trinidad's hands wrapped. I knew what the rules were and I wanted them followed. To me, Trinidad's situation was much, much different than Margarito's situation. What Trinidad did was actually legal in some places. It just wasn't legal in New York. I had the rulebook with me right there in my hand.

The Ring: What happened in Trinidad's locker room?

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NR: When I came into the room, I think it was his left hand that was already wrapped. I asked for the bylaws about hand wraps before the fight. I didn't see the hand get wrapped. Someone from Hopkins' camp had to be there to witness the hands being wrapped. I spoke to a commissioner about it. He said that he was there to watch his hand get wrapped. Then I asked him, "Do you work for the Hopkins camp?" I think I asked him twice. He said, no, so I told the commissioner I wanted to see Trinidad get his hands wrapped again—both of them.

Before you know it, Papa Trinidad flipped out and went off, and people in the room started threatening me *(laughs)*. They said I was scared. I told them I don't have to fight Trinidad tonight, what do I have to be scared about *(laughs)*? They were telling me Bernard was going to get knocked out. I didn't want to budge from what I knew was right. If something happened to Bernard, and something came out later about Trinidad's hand wraps, I would have blamed myself. It would have been because I didn't do my job.

The Ring: How crazy did it get?

NR: Real crazy. The Trinidad people brought in the HBO people and the Trinidad people were yelling that the fight was off. Then they went over and they got Donald Trump to come into Trinidad's locker room. Was I supposed to be impressed by Donald Trump and roll over? I didn't even acknowledge him *(laughs)*. Then they called for Don King to come in. Don King came back yelling, what does he have to do with hand wraps *(laughs)*. It was all going crazy. I remember the Trinidad people went over and got Bouie, because I was causing such a ruckus. The Trinidad people pulled Bouie aside and brought him into a little room. They tried to talk him into getting the fight moving and how I was holding up a multi-million dollar fight *(laughs)*.

I was supposed to look at Donald Trump and Don King and be overwhelmed. They thought I was going to fold. They called Bouie in and tried to sway him and that didn't work. Bouie told me not to argue with them, just see what I had to see. I wasn't budging on what I knew was right. I had the bylaws with me right there in my hands, pointing to them what was right in the rulebook.

I had to see the hands get wrapped!

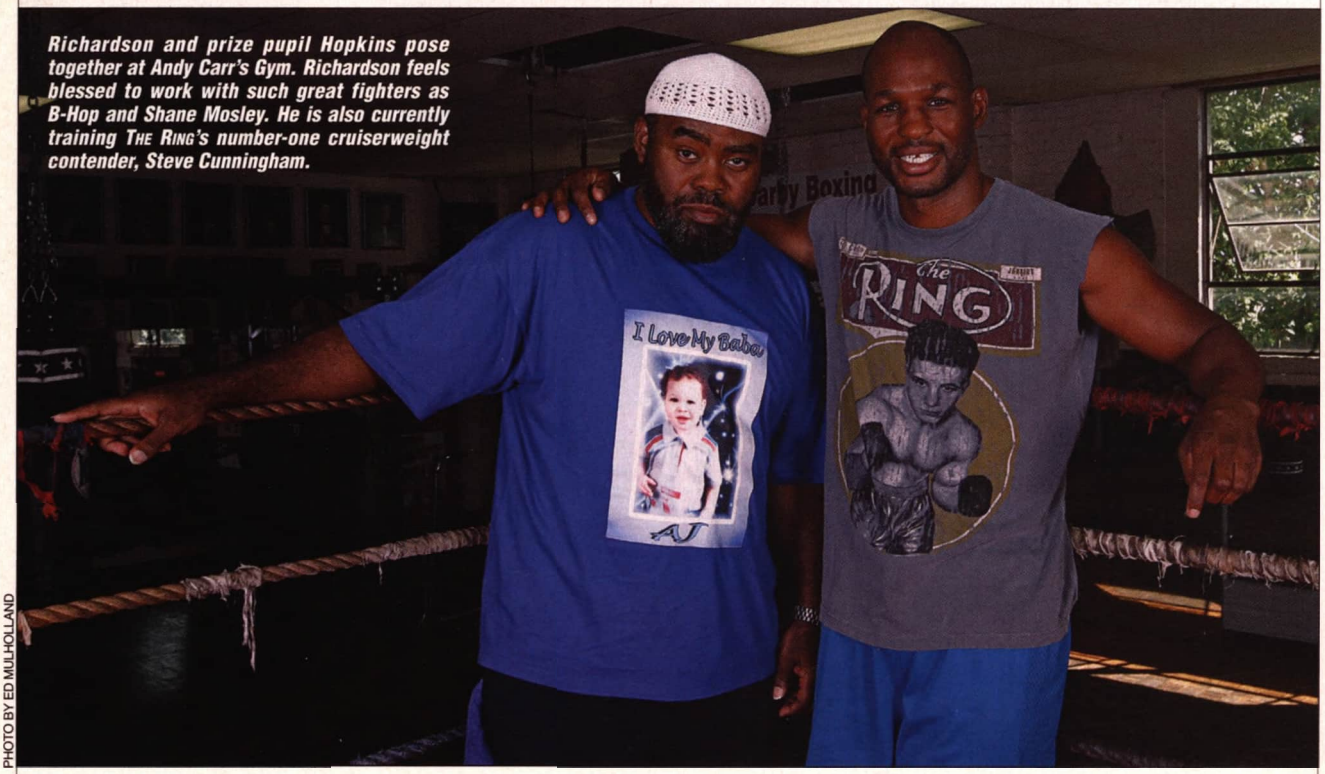
Finally, the commission said that I was right. The thing that got me was Trinidad's pop said the fight was off, and the joint went crazy. None of that impressed me. Trinidad had to rewrap in front of me. Papa Trinidad unwrapped the left hand and started rewrapping the left again.

The Ring: What did you see?

NR: I noticed that Papa Trinidad was layering too much tape and gauze on Tito's hand, and that wasn't allowed. It was amazing. The commission was there, watching and no one said anything. Papa Trinidad said that every time they fought at Madison Square Garden, that's the way he wrapped Trinidad's hands. I told him, "Not against my guy."

The athletic commission told him the proper way to wrap the hand and he wrapped it the right way. Watching another fighter get his hands wrapped, which would normally take 10, maybe 15 minutes, took an hour to get resolved. I wasn't budging from my stance. That's because I was right, backed by fact. I had to say something. There were no doubts whatsoever. There's nothing I would change from that night. I can smile, because I like being in position to protect my guy. The rest is history.

Think about this: No one before or since stopped William Joppy the way



Richardson and prize pupil Hopkins pose together at Andy Carr's Gym. Richardson feels blessed to work with such great fighters as B-Hop and Shane Mosley. He is also currently training The Ring's number-one cruiserweight contender, Steve Cunningham.

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

Trinidad did to him. I don't know and I can't say if Trinidad wrapped his hands a certain way or not in any of his previous fights. All I can say is what I saw that night with Bernard. I watched Bernard beat Joppy to death, but no one put him down like Trinidad did. That's all I can say.

The Ring: How was Trinidad different from Margarito's situation?

NR: Trinidad was an abrasion against the rules. Margarito downright had a weapon. There is a difference when you say you're playing chess and have your men lined up differently, as opposed to having extra men on the board. Margarito tried to bring extra men. He had an actual square block of plaster in his knuckle pad. Margarito had a strip over the back of his hand, around his thumb and wrapped two or three times down to the wrist. They told me it was because of a previous injury was why they wrapped it that way. One look and you could tell it wasn't right.

We went back and forth about that. Margarito's coach said that he expected this out of me, because of the Trinidad thing, I guess *(laughs)*. The original argument was about the tape being directly on the skin, where it's supposed to be gauze. They went and got one of the commissioners, and they got the tape off and asked that Margarito's people start wrapping Margarito's hand again. Margarito had the left hand done. I saw that, but I noticed this pad on a table next to Margarito and when I picked it up to check it out. I noticed it was kind of hard. When I handed the knuckle pad over to the chief commissioner, a block fell out. I couldn't believe it. I picked up the block. That's when I wanted to approve the other hand. They had to take the wraps off the left hand and a block falls out of the padding of that hand too. I was sitting there with these two blocks in my hands. The commission wanted them, and I said no way. I told them I wasn't going to give them to anyone but Shane Mosley's lawyer. I put the blocks in a box and handed them to Judd Burstein.

The Ring: How did Shane react?

NR: I had some disappointment at the time, because I didn't think they were going to let Margarito fight. I was thinking that I ruined it for Shane, almost like I thought I ruined it for Bernard with Trinidad's people threatening not to fight. To tell you the truth, I was a little more scared about the Mosley fight. Shane had put so much time and effort into that fight. I wanted to show Shane off like a new toy. I knew what he did in camp. I knew what he was going to do against Margarito. I'll tell you this, Margarito could have had a small club in his hand—he wasn't going to do anything to Shane that night *(laughs)*.

Every great fighter has a great night. That night, Shane Mosley could have beaten anyone in the world. Two days before that fight, I did everything I could to keep Shane under wraps. If you look at that fight, you'll notice before the first bell rung I had to hold the back of Shane's trunks. He was that hyped to go. He was ready.

The Ring: The hand wrap controversy never got into Shane's head?

NR: No, not at all. If it did anything, it messed our schedule up. The Margarito mess pushed everything back. I still had to go back and tape Shane's hands. I told Shane what was going on when I was taping him. In the meantime, Bernard was going crazy *(laughs)*. You know Bernard. When he's getting ready to fight, he's the calmest one in the room. But in Shane's locker room, Bernard was like a

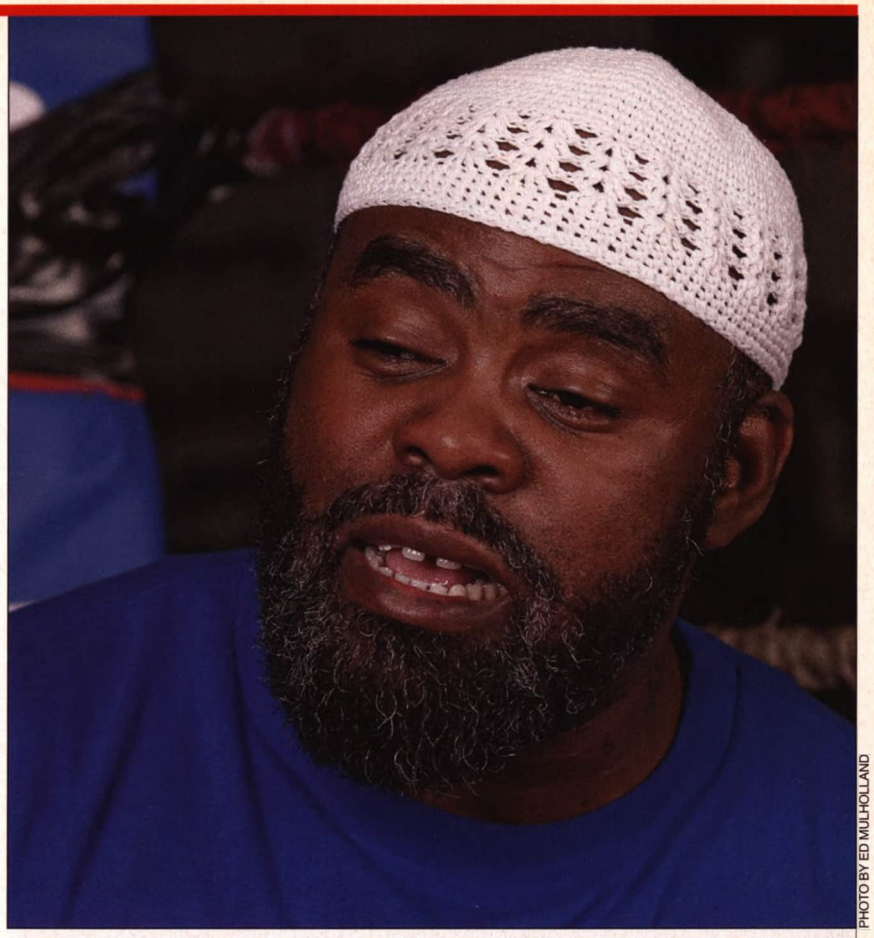


PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

"I don't know why training athletes came so easily to me, but it did. I realized how I could help athletes. But I have to stress this: One thing I won't do is work with an athlete if I don't think I can help the guy."

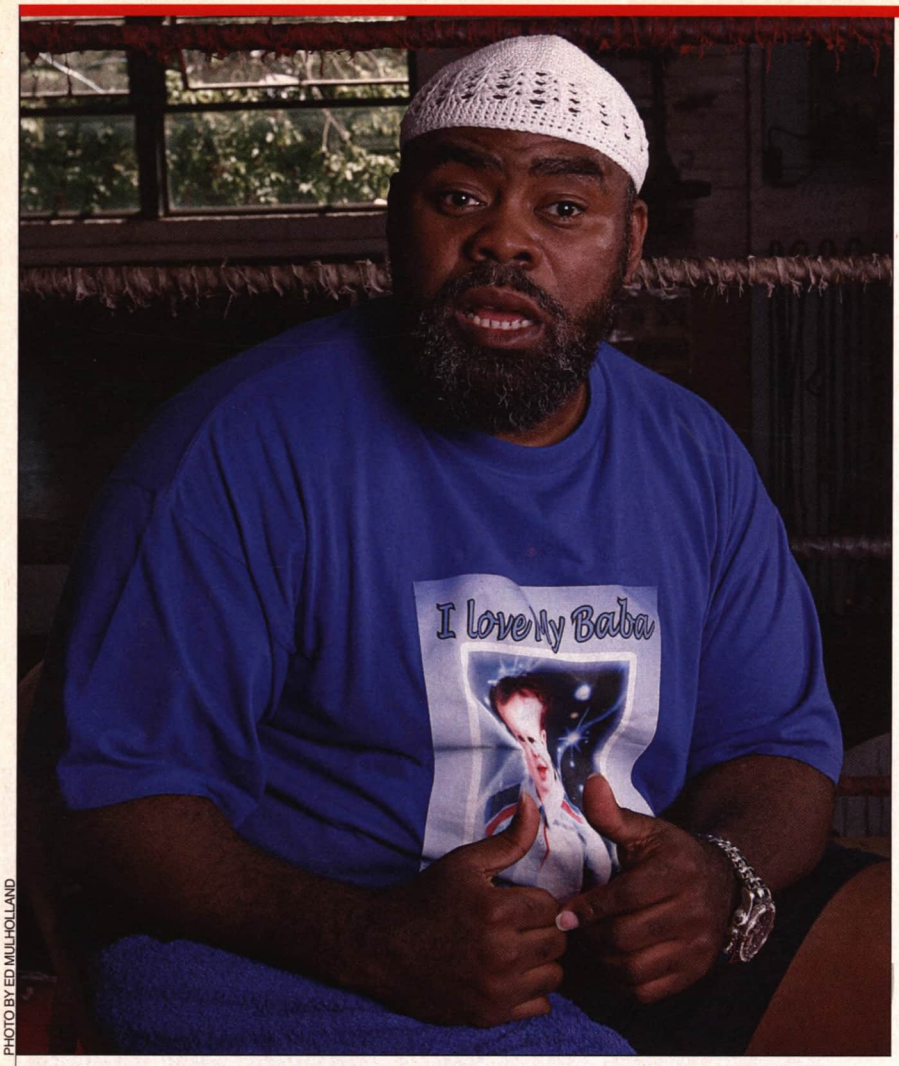


PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

"Trinidad was an abrasion against the rules. Margarito downright had a weapon. There is a difference when you say you're playing chess and have your men lined up differently, as opposed to having extra men on the board."

stage mom *(laughs)*. Like Shane was one of his little chicks, or something *(laughs)*. Bernard is so concerned he worries when it's someone else getting ready to fight. I had to get him out of there *(laughs)*. So we sent Bernard over there to watch Margarito's people tape his gloves. They thought they had it tough with me. They had it easy with me. They had to deal with Bernard, if anything went wrong or was funny again *(laughs)*.

The Ring: Did you feel you had to fix a lot with Shane?

NR: Shane Mosley is unbelievable. He'd check with me with almost everything. He showed me respect, and here I had a guy who was a world champion really doing that. There is negative and positive energy out there. I'm a positive person. I believe in positive things, but I also believe a lot of times you can fuel a car with negative energy. You do that, your car will run forever—used the right way.

There will always be that nonsense with some guys. I've been with guys who were prima donnas who will tell you this is the way they want to do it. But for Shane, he'd ask me how I wanted him to do things. The beauty is that Shane will fight anyone. He loves fighting. You can ask almost anything of him and he'll do it. My job was to dissect Margarito and expose his flaws. That's what I think we did.

The Ring: What are the similarities and differences in training Shane Mosley and Bernard Hopkins?

NR: Steve Cunningham and Shane are exceptional human beings who happen to know how to fight, same as Bernard. With someone like Bernard, you take two things, punishment or experience each time you walk away from a fight. He's always taken experience each time he's come from the ring. More experience, less punishment. That wasn't always the case with Shane at times in his career. Sometimes he took too much punishment, and he was better than that. I saw that first hand.

One thing they definitely have in common and that's they don't get sidetracked. Shane had a lot of things going on in his personal life that could have derailed him, but it didn't. He stays focused. Bernard is the same way. Bernard will give you energy. He'll argue and complain about something, but he'll still do what he has to do *(laughs)*. They're phenoms, real phenoms. It's why they're all-time greats. I've really been blessed.

The biggest difference is that Shane won't complain *(laughs)*. The thing about Bernard is he won't give you what you want until he's ready. I've been around him long enough. He doesn't miss anything. He can tell you how many times you drank out of a water bottle when you were watching him work. He has an old-school approach. Shane and Bernard both do.

The Ring: Speaking of old school, you have a great appreciation for boxing history. Let's talk about the old school and new-school differences in boxing today?

NR: I like to incorporate both principles in training. The way I see it, I got the best of both worlds, old school and new school. I'm open to new ways, but you can't argue with the old ways. One, right off the bat, is some old-timers will tell

you never to lift weights. Then Evander Holyfield came along and they found weights could be beneficial to athletes to some degree in boxing. I'm actually not a big proponent of weight training, but I'll allow a fighter to lift, if he's always lifted. I wouldn't have a problem with it. For a guy trying to get into it late, I'm okay if the athlete finds a strength trainer to introduce him to it. I wouldn't discourage a fighter from training with the weights, as long as it's done right and with supervision. Old school and new school even goes with the behind-the-scenes things.

The Ring: Like what?

NR: Sometimes when we would go to fight meetings with Bouie, there are a lot of things that I would question and ask the commission about in reference to the fight. Bouie and those guys came from a different era where everyone knew each other and there was a comfort zone between the commissions and the trainers. Today, there is a new guy every week. Bouie didn't have to question things. I learned from him, but you learn something from everyone you speak to, even if you learn not to ever speak to them again. When Bouie and them trained, there was honor involved. Not today. It's one of the things I miss about old-school boxing.

The Ring: You're also very entrenched in the amateur game. What's wrong with the amateur game in this country?

NR: What you primarily see in other countries is that amateur programs start with the youth and stay with them, following them up the ladder. In our country, they don't take any real interest in a kid until they see the kid has pro potential. In the amateur program here, some people just don't want to make that commitment. They see it as they're losing money taking these kids around to different tournaments. They'd rather take a guy pro and move him around and make money.

We also need stability. USA Boxing takes in a new director, and what does the new head guy do? He asks the same questions to the same people, and gets back the same answers. You're stuck back at the start again. It's like we're running on a treadmill going nowhere.

Gifted punchers like a David Reid, or a gifted athlete like an Oscar De La Hoya, you can always find them somewhere. But we need to develop a system, a set system for everyone. We don't have a system. Some say the number-one answer is let the coaches who came up coaching the kids continue with the kids. That might cure some of it.

Foreign countries are producing better amateurs than us, because they have a better system. We need set system everyone could work and benefit from.

The Ring: Will we ever see a U.S. Olympic team like the '76 team or the '84 team again?

NR: No. When these kids become pros, it seems they're relieved to be out of the amateur game. It's really a shame, because it's supposed to be the best time of your boxing career. It's hard. You look at some of these young kids with the time and commitment they put in and they're not getting the right attention.

I've had guys like Muhammad Ali and Pernell Whitaker tell my kids that one of the greatest moments of their careers was when they won a gold medal in the Olympics. It will be hard to ever find a team that was dominant like the 1976 team. Other countries took so much from our programs. *It's our stuff that they're beating us with!* We've got away from some of the fundamentals. We got away from teaching the sport. It is really a lost art, but what is also lost is the hunger of the fighters.

The Ring: Do the fighters make the trainer or do the trainers make the fighter?

NR: In all fairness, it goes 50-50. I had a kid years ago, and when we went into this tournament and I noticed Al Fennell in the other guy's corner. I said to my kid, "He has more information in his corner than you do in your corner, but I have the better kid." My kid wound up winning by decision against Fennell's kid. That was a case of making adjustments and doing what we wanted to do. But it was also a case of my fighter making me look good.

Another time, at Olympic trials, some media asked me to pick out the best fighters in each weight class. When it came to Rock's weight class, I picked out

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Richardson's first fight as Mosley's trainer was Sugar Shane's remarkable upset kayo of Margarito. The trainer said that nobody could have beaten Mosley on that night.

another kid. They couldn't believe me. I said the other kid has more talent than my kid, but I never said he was going to beat my guy. The guy could have more talent, but once we put in who will execute the better strategy, that will be the difference. That's what wins fights too. Like Pacquiao, whatever Freddie (Roach) tells him, Pacquiao believes in it.

The Ring: How frustrating has it been for you to be waiting in the wings to get your chance in the sun?

NR: It didn't bother me. I have a deep, deep love and respect for the sport and I watched my own growth. That's the way it works. There were guys working with fighters who some people said were great, and some guys who have stood next to me who were doing the same things these great trainers were doing. They didn't get that "great" label, because maybe they were working with some kids, and they never got the chance to work with that one star that throws them over the top.

I approached the Cuban coach at the Pan-Am Games one time and told him he was the greatest amateur coach in history—and he said, "Yes, he was" *(laughs)*. I've been blessed to talk to Eddie Futch, Angelo Dundee, Emanuel Steward, and had been fortunate enough to work with Freddie Roach, Kenny Adams, John David Jackson, and Buddy McGirt, and not too long ago with Don Turner, when I was in Russia.

I was always comfortable if I taught you something, and see you do it. As long as the execution is there and the kid is safe, I'm OK with that. I don't need to be called great. The thing is, the athlete knows what went into the camp. The younger guys see what goes on and what goes into training camp. Working with pound-for-pound fighters such as Shane Mosley, Bernard Hopkins, and Steve Cunningham, that's enough for me. They can't take that away from me.

The Ring: You almost didn't get that chance when you suffered the stroke in 2007.

NR: No, I didn't. I had just finished training Matt Godfrey and I went home late that night from the gym. That's when my whole left side went out. I tried to pray. Any time I turn to God and couldn't even take the posture to pray, something was wrong. My son Bear noticed I couldn't pray, and Rock and my mother called the ambulance. It's scary and uncomfortable, losing control of the left side of your body like that. But it's all been a blessing. That's the way I look at it. Allah gave me a new understanding, an appreciation for things. I'll never forget when Shane won, they were chanting, "Coach of the year, coach of the year," when I came to the podium. That was something extra.

I'm not an emotional guy, but a few months ago I was running up and down a ramp with my grandson like a little kid myself *(laughs)*. I got emotional, because they never said I would walk, or run, or speak, or do anything again.

I was around 320 when I had the stroke, and now I'm down to around 250, 260. I feel good *(rubs his stomach and laughs)*.

Look at everything that's happened to me after the stroke. My grandson was born; after that was Bernard's victory over Pavlik; after that was Shane's fight against Margarito; after that Steve's victory over Braithwaite. That's what I mean that I've been blessed. This is all gravy to me now.

The Ring: Where do you see yourself five years from now?

NR: Hopefully, I'll still be involved with world champions and try to develop some new ones. Hopefully, I'll get to see one of the young kids in the gym make something of themselves. Or one day be in the corner when Rock wins a title. That would be big for me, but it would have to be what Rock wants.

I've had my low moments, like when (Joe) Calzaghe beat Bernard, and my high moments, like when Bernard beat Trinidad, and when Shane beat Margarito. I think the highest moment for me so far came after the Margarito fight.

A trainer, one of the TV guys, had something derogatory to say: That I really didn't do anything to help Shane, because Shane is already so gifted—and he is. I never came to my own defense. I'm satisfied to have the athlete like Shane believe in me, and believe where I'm leading him. But this older woman came to my defense. She said I should be appreciated for the work I did with Shane. The woman was Eva Futch, Eddie Futch's wife. It's something I'll always remember. That keeps me going. Working with guys like Shane, Bernard, Steve keeps me going. The kids I work with will always keep me going. ■

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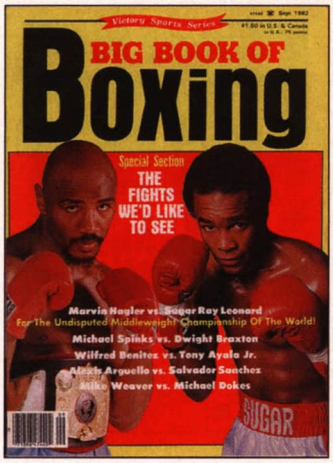

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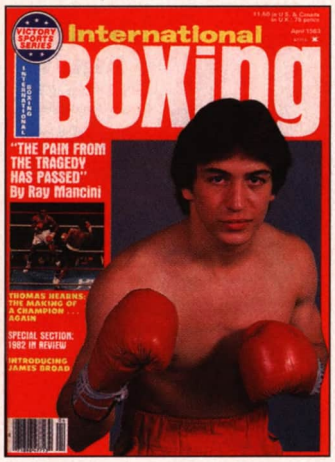

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WHY PAVLIK IS FIGHTING THE MAN NOBODY WANTS TO FIGHT

By Don Stradley

From the moment we saw him, we called Kelly Pavlik a throwback. It's not that he reminded us of a particular fighter from the past (although his head is shaped a bit like Bobo Olson's), but we felt he would've fit right into boxing's classic era. He was a hard-nosed white kid from Youngstown, Ohio, who took a few licks to land one. And when he landed one, he put the whole building behind it. Alas, he's not fighting in the 1950s when a guy like him would be on the Pabst Blue Ribbon fights every six weeks, winning some and losing some. Instead, he's fighting decades later on HBO. In this era you fight less often but for more money. The drawback is that losing one fight can bung up your business profile.

Last October, Pavlik dropped a one-sided 12-round decision to the primordial Bernard Hopkins. It was a non-title bout, so Pavlik's middleweight championship didn't go anywhere. All he lost was much of the luster he'd gained during his run to stardom.

That's why some people are questioning Pavlik's choice to fight Paul "The Punisher" Williams, generally regarded as the fighter no one wants to fight. This is especially odd since opponents ranging from Sergio Mora to Sergio Martinez were mentioned as possibilities for Pavlik this year, while Williams was considered taboo. To hear Williams' promoter, Dan Goossen, tell it, Pavlik's promoter, Bob Arum, hides under his desk every time Williams' name is mentioned. And according to Arum, Williams had jerked Pavlik

PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS/HOGAN PHOTOS

Referee Jerry Cantu raises Williams' arm following an easy first-round TKO of Andy Kolle. "The Punisher" has won 36 of his 37 pro bouts, but Winky Wright is the only top-notch middleweight he's faced prior to challenging Pavlik for the 160-pound world championship.

around when the bout was originally proposed a year ago. Arum said Pavlik shouldn't give Williams "the opportunity to make a pay day." The bout was proposed again early this year, except Arum dismissed Goossen's suggestion of a 50/50 split. But as happens so often, the machinations, politics, and happenstance of boxing will bring Pavlik and Williams together on December 5, at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City.

We're less concerned with the how than the why.

Pavlik, 35-1 (31), didn't have to fight Williams. All he had to do during the next 18 months or so was fight someone like Mora, sell out The Chevrolet Center in Youngstown a couple of times, and by 2011 he'd be ready to jump to 168 and face the winner of the widely hyped Showtime super middleweight series. Or he could go to 168 now, whip the winner of the Lucian Bute-Librado Andrade rematch, and start making a case for himself as the real super middleweight king. He's already voiced his disdain for both the tournament and Showtime, so he could build some heat with the eventual tourney winner. And that's something that could still happen. Meanwhile, Pavlik is taking a nasty detour through Williamsville.

A multitude of fans, bloggers, and message board regulars give Pavlik no chance to beat Williams. The general sense out there in boxing fandom, beyond Youngstown, of course, is that Pavlik only agreed to fight Williams because so many eligible opponents are locked into the Showtime tournament. Some wonder how a fighter who struggled with Hopkins can hope to achieve anything against a younger, faster, busier fighter like Williams, a southpaw who moves well and throws punches at such high volume that HBO punch-counters suffer carpal tunnel syndrome every time he fights.

This time, the middleweight championship will be at stake. If things don't go his way, Pavlik could not only lose the title, but a second loss would be devastating to him in terms of image and his future earnings. We know the best are supposed to fight the best—we're always complaining that it doesn't happen often enough—we're just surprised to see this fight happening at such a delicate time in Pavlik's career. When we think about it from Pavlik's point of view, however, an explanation emerges. In fact, it's not such a bad idea at all. Following is a short list of possible reasons why Pavlik has agreed to face the most avoided fighter in the world:

1. Williams is not such a monster at middleweight.

As a welterweight, Williams towered over his opponents and frustrated them with his Jurassic reach. But at middleweight, he's less imposing. Pavlik is a rather big middleweight, standing 6'2½", while Williams is 6'1". Williams will still enjoy an advantage in arm length, but will learn there is a difference in throwing 1,000 punches at a 6'2½" opponent, instead of a 5'7" Verno Phillips.

ESPN2 *Friday Night Fights* commentator Teddy Atlas told THE RING, "I think this fight could be bad for Williams. Pavlik is strong; he'll be coming forward to land his right hand, he'll be landing those good, straight punches he throws. I can see it turning into an ugly fight, with a lot of headbutts, tangling of arms, clinching. It might not be classy. And Williams doesn't react real well under those conditions."

2. Williams has yet to be hit by a real middleweight puncher.

If Williams, 37-1 (27), wanted to test his chin against a dangerous middleweight, he couldn't have asked for a better example of the breed than Pavlik. Not only does bald Pavlik look like Bazooka Joe of bubblegum fame, his right hand is like a bazooka blast. Jack Loew, Pavlik's trainer, believes Williams is in for a shock.

Loew told THE RING, "I saw Winky Wright wobble him a few times with right hands, and Winky doesn't punch like Kelly. We've fought big guys before, but Williams hasn't fought anyone with Kelly's size or strength. If anyone is making adjustments for this fight, it's Williams, not Kelly."

3. Pavlik may be getting Williams at the right time.

Despite the propaganda around Williams, he's not exactly slaughtering opponents for their meat. Like Pavlik, Williams has an embarrassing loss on his record, and it wasn't to a future Hall of Famer, either. It was to the rather ordinary Carlos Quintana. There seems to be a pattern to Williams' career where he's hot for a fight or two, then cold. After his last bout, a command performance against Wright, he is bound to get cold again, maybe just in time for Pavlik.

4. If Pavlik balked at fighting Williams, HBO may have balked at using Pavlik.

HBO passed on Pavlik's February bout with Marco Antonio Rubio; it was aired as a Top Rank pay-per-view. HBO has also turned down other Pavlik fights, including a proposed bout with Ireland's John Duddy. There aren't many bankable opponents for Pavlik at 160 pounds. It's hard to imagine the HBO suits getting excited about Sebastian Zbik or Khoren Gevor. HBO allegedly put $2-million on the table when Pavlik was open to fighting Felix Sturm, which Pavlik scoffed at. Pavlik said he'd already fought for $3-million in the past, so fighting for so much less didn't make sense to him. That shows us two things: 1) Pavlik has a slightly inflated sense of his worth, and 2) HBO thinks less of him than it once did. (If Pavlik had destroyed Hopkins, do you think HBO would offer him a measly $2-million? Hell no, and he'd probably be guest-starring on *Entourage* by now.)

HBO would never cop to it, but the network may be also using Pavlik-Williams to decide whom to bank on in the future. Along with a nagging hand infection that postponed this fight once, the talk around Pavlik includes bar fights, rumors of heavy drinking, and a stint in rehab (refuted by the Pavlik camp), a visit to a sports psychologist, threats from ex-managers, and a general sense that Pavlik's fame is becoming a burden. Granted, this stuff pales next to an average year in the life of Floyd Mayweather or Mike Tyson, but the brains at HBO may wonder if Pavlik is dependable. If Williams beats him, HBO can wish Pavlik the best and forget about him. If Pavlik wins, HBO will figure he's worth another shot. Pavlik needs to stay in the good graces of HBO, especially after his recent statement to a Youngstown newspaper that "Nobody watches Showtime."

5. Beating Williams may help erase the loss to Hopkins.

Pavlik's core audience still adores him, and many will say there's no shame in losing to a walking legend like Hopkins. But Pavlik didn't just lose; he was humiliated. He returned to his corner after each round looking like a

PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Pavlik has yet to regain the momentum and marketability he enjoyed before Hopkins administered a one-sided beating in October 2008. If Pavlik can beat Williams, it would go a long way toward exorcising the defeat to B-Hop and ensure future HBO dates.

If Pavlik can drill Williams with the same kind of bombs he used to win the middleweight championship from Jermain Taylor, he should be able to stop Williams too. But Williams is normally a much busier puncher than Taylor, which could also be a major factor in the outcome.

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

frustrated batter who kept whiffing on the same pitch. Since then, Pavlik has given a standard line about putting the loss behind him and moving on. Loew said the only thing that was learned from the loss was that Pavlik would never fight again when he's unhealthy.

"That wasn't my fighter in there," Loew said. "He was lethargic, not throwing punches. But I give him credit for hanging in there for all 12 rounds."

Loew claimed that Pavlik suffered from a fever and bronchitis leading up the bout, but "I didn't pull him out. I shouldn't have worried about what people would say." Loew has also mentioned that the Pavlik organization had grown a bit complacent.

"It can happen to anyone," said Loew. "We were knocking everybody out; we were on top of the world, playing on the finest golf courses, eating in the finest restaurants. Kelly is such a normal kid; it all happened a little bit fast. The loss may have been the best thing that could have happened."

Losing to Hopkins may have been a wake up call, but it also placed Pavlik in a situation that has become unusual in boxing—he's a champion who lost a non-title bout. We rarely see non-title bouts

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Pavlik's trainer, Jack Loew, noted that although Williams won convincingly against Wright, he did get caught with a number of right hands. Moreover, Loew believes Pavlik is a much harder puncher than Wright, which could very well be the key of retaining the title.

PHOTO BY BRYAN CROWE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Williams bears down on Phillips en route to an eighth-round TKO over his 5'7" opponent. Against Pavlik, Williams will be facing a naturally bigger man who has been fighting as a middleweight throughout most of his pro career and is also slightly taller than his challenger.

anymore, so fans aren't accustomed to seeing a champion lose, only to remain champion. This may even be bothering Pavlik. Along with THE RING world champions, Pavlik still owns the WBC and WBO belts. It must feel strange to carry those around, knowing he was whipped so easily by Hopkins. There's a lame duck atmosphere around Pavlik now, which could explain why so many fans are predicting he'll fail against Williams. But looking back at boxing's past, when non-title bouts were common, there were some outstanding champions who suffered embarrassing losses in non-title bouts, yet went on to have superlative careers.

In March 1943, featherweight champion Willie Pep had a 62-fight winning streak snapped by Sammy Angott, a former lightweight champ who came in as a 3-1 underdog. It was a non-title bout, with Pep fighting above his usual featherweight limit. Slick Pep had trouble with Angott's messy style—Sammy hung on him like an octopus, and at one point even headbutted Pep through the ropes and out of the ring. "The Clutch," as Angott was known, did just enough to eke out a decision. The press immediately labeled Pep overrated. Pep dealt with it by going on another undefeated streak, this time for 73 fights.

Welterweight champion Emile Griffith was scheduled to receive the Boxing Writer Association of America's Edward J. Neil Memorial Award for 1963 when Teddy Brenner, the Madison Square Garden matchmaker, approached him to fight at the Garden. The opponent was to be Ruben "Hurricane" Carter. Griffith had already earned a lot of money that year, and was concerned about entering a higher tax bracket. His manager/trainer Gil Clancy suggested the bout be made as a low-key, non-title event in Pittsburgh instead of a championship bout in New York. To the shock of everyone, Carter obliterated Griffith in one round. When Griffith appeared a few weeks later at the awards banquet, he joked, "Something funny happened on the way to the dinner. I stopped off in Pittsburgh!" Griffith went on to win numerous fights, and the Carter loss is merely a blip on his Hall of Fame career.

We know better than to suggest Pavlik is another Pep or Griffith. But if he can beat Williams, he can resume at the level we all imagined for him. That's what a throwback would do. ■

Don Stradley is a freelance writer from Massachusetts and a regular contributor to THE RING.

PHOTO BY BOB THOMAS/POPPERFOTO/GETTY IMAGES

THE TUMULTUOUS LIFE AND TIMES OF TERRY McGOVERN

"Terry Fought Like A Man Who Lost His Head"

By Don Stradley

He was an unlikely sports hero, weighing about 120 pounds with skin so pink that an opponent once taunted him by calling him a "little lobster." He suffered from ill health and was often unnerved by the crowds that adored him. By the time he was 27 he'd been arrested 10 times for public drunkenness. On those rare occasions when he spoke to the press, he showed an almost comical awareness that he'd chosen the wrong field.

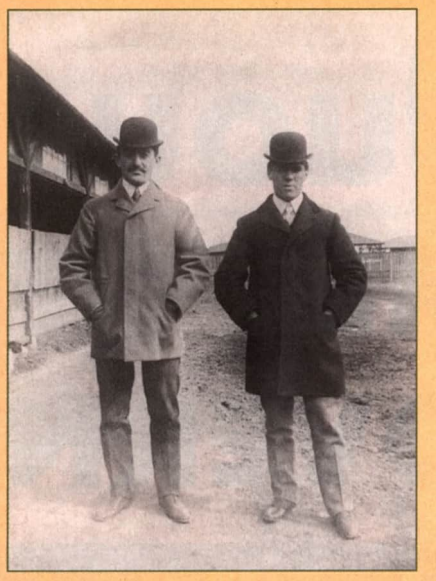
"The fighting game is too strenuous for me," he said months before he retired. "Or I'm too strenuous for it. They say I'm too intense, you know what I mean." It was as if Terry McGovern, who'd spent most of his adult life dealing with personal demons of extraordinary size and wickedness, was tempted to apologize for his existence, even though he couldn't stop it from unraveling.

Yet, when he died on February 22, 1918, three days after checking into the charity ward of Kings County Hospital, the public outpouring of grief was astonishing. The newspaper coverage given to his funeral rivaled the day's main headline about the Bolsheviks surrendering to the Huns. The muddy streets were nearly as crowded for the march to Brooklyn's Holy Cross Cemetery as they'd been one day in 1899, when fireworks exploded over the borough, and McGovern's fellow Irishmen celebrated into the wee hours his victory over Tom "Pedlar" Palmer of England.

Now, the pack merely shambled along in silent prayer.

"In every sense of the phrase, he was a pugilistic marvel," wrote THE RING's founder Nat Fleischer. Old-time lightweight champ Jack McAuliffe captured the sentiment of the times when he wrote in *The Washington Post*, "There probably never was a greater fighter in all history than Terry McGovern."

McGovern's record is a great one: 60-5-4 (42), with 10 no-decision bouts. But the furious, rampaging thing McGovern had been in the ring often surfaced in his private life. He once beat his brother Hughie so badly during a family quarrel that their mother, thinking Hughie was dead, ran into the street seeking help. That side of McGovern didn't make the obituaries. There was also no mention that McGovern had once menaced this same Brooklyn neighborhood, waving a pistol over his head, warning his neighbors that he wanted their blood.



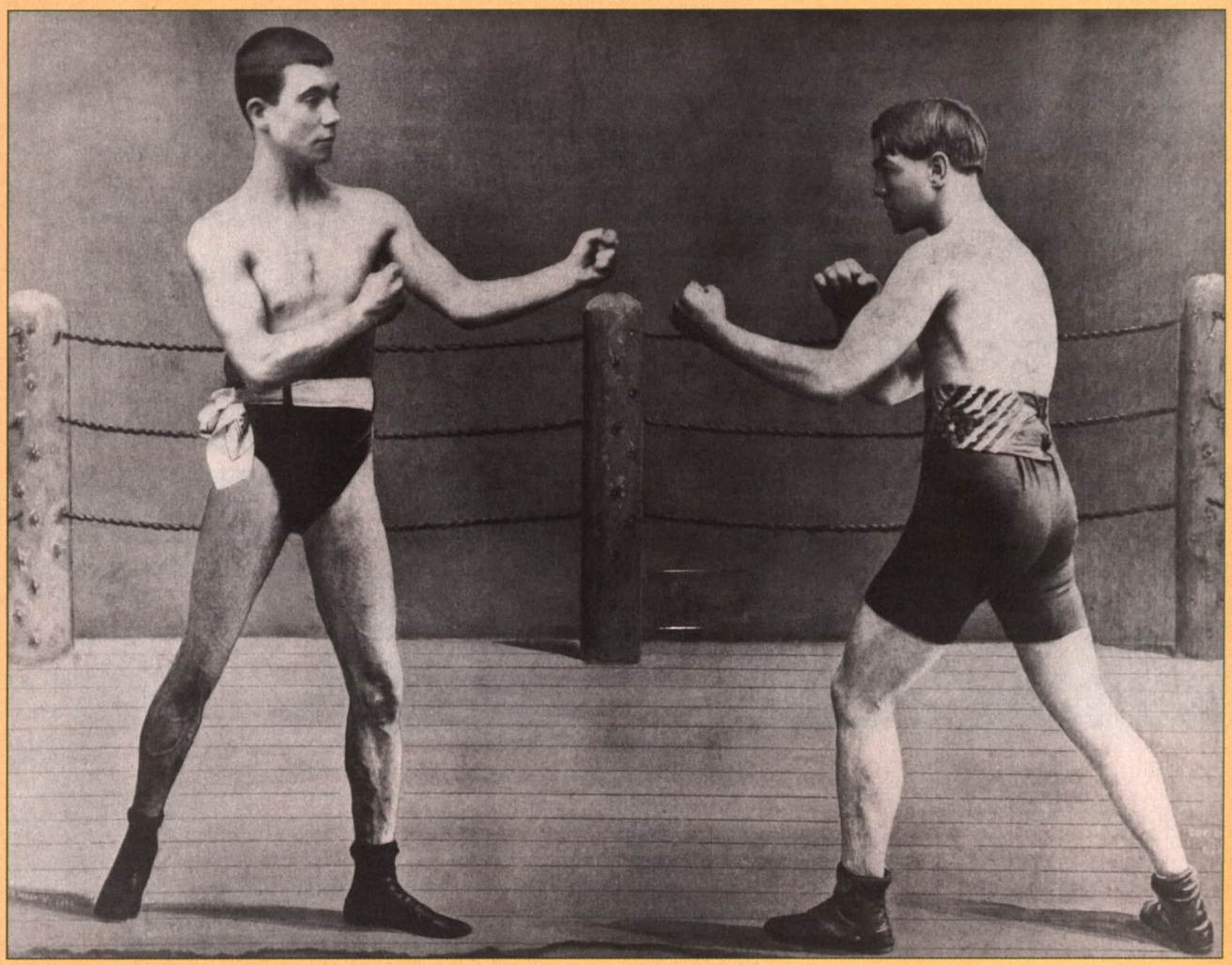
McGovern with his imaginative manager, Sam Harris, an early exponent of boxing ballyhoo, who sanitized McGovern's image, often hired a brass band to perform at his fights, and made sure there were plenty of celebrities at ringside.

Joseph Terrence McGovern was raised in Brooklyn, but he was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, on March 9, 1880. To help support his mother and siblings after his father died, McGovern went to work in a Williamsburg lumberyard. Charles Mayhood, a company foreman with a boxing background, was impressed with McGovern's scrappy nature and offered to train him.

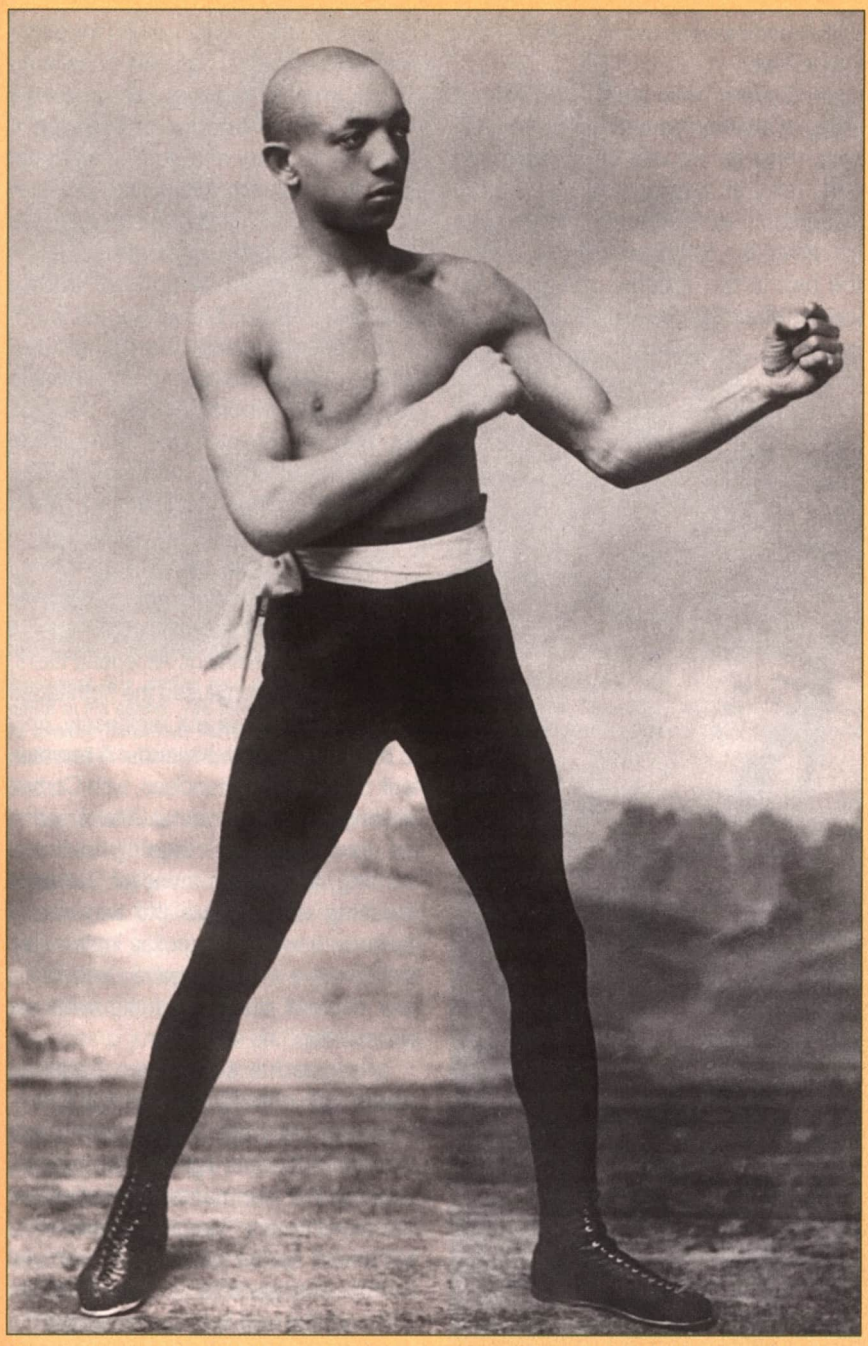
Turning pro at 17, McGovern's temper cost him two early bouts by disqualification. Still, he became a regular attraction at Brooklyn's Greenwood Athletic Club. Ring announcer Joe Humphreys brought him to the attention of Sam Harris, a laundry owner with an interest in show business. Taking note of how the Irish customers responded to McGovern's quick and dirty style, Harris convinced Mayhood that McGovern could benefit from better management.

Harris was brilliant at publicity, hiring brass bands to perform at McGovern's fights, and hyping McGovern as a milk drinker who fought only to support his poor, grey-haired mother. Of course, McGovern wasn't a milk drinker, and neither was his mother. Harris simply thought McGovern would benefit from the Horatio Alger treatment. Also, boxing was outgrowing its outlaw status, so Harris made sure McGovern's bouts were attended by celebrities to create an aura of glamour. A columnist for *The Oakland Tribune* later mused, "It is doubtful, very doubtful, if Terry would ever have attained the great position he occupied in pugilism without the shrewd manipulation of Sam Harris."

McGovern did his part by knocking people cold. Joe Bernstein, who lost to



The sensational first-round kayo of Englishman Pedlar Palmer (left) in 1899 to win the world bantamweight championship made McGovern a star, especially among New York's Irish-American population, who set off fireworks and partied through the night when he won the title.



George Dixon, the first black boxer to win a world championship, lost the featherweight title to McGovern in January 1900. Both men are now enshrined in the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

McGovern twice, told *The Olean Evening Herald* in 1923, "He was a wonder, and that is the only way I can put it. What a hitter Terry was! And he was all over you every minute of the time, shooting terrible blows from all angles."

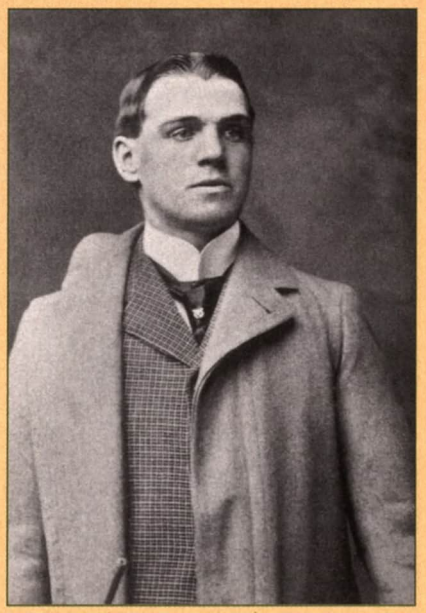
"I can only fight one way," McGovern said. "That is to cut in and finish my man just as soon as possible." McGovern once hit Tommy White with such force that ringsiders heard White's ankle break.

The ascent of "Terrible Terry" began at the outdoor Westchester Athletic Club in Tuckahoe, New York, on September 12, 1899, when he kayoed Palmer in one round for the bantamweight championship. Palmer had been lured to America under the impression that McGovern was just out of the amateurs, but as U.S., British, and Irish flags waved in the wind, McGovern left Palmer on the canvas like a twitching bird that had been caught in the gears of a threshing machine.

Four months later McGovern defeated future Hall of Famer George Dixon in eight rounds for the featherweight championship. In July 1900, McGovern needed only three rounds to stop lightweight champion Frank Erne. Harris had talked Erne into fighting McGovern at a catch weight, hence the bout was non-title; otherwise McGovern would've won championships at bantam, feather, and lightweight within 10 months.

The New York World wrote of McGovern, "He has John L. Sullivan's serene self-confidence and swiftness of attack, rushing in to destroy his opponent at once. He is the equal of Jim Corbett in clever footwork, getting in and out of hitting distance like magic. He has Kid McCoy's art of starting a blow from any position and sending in a crashing punch from a distance of only six inches." *The World* added, "His eyes are as bright as if he were in a fever."

New York's Irish, only a few generations removed from the massive potato famine immigration to America, embraced McGovern as a hero. One amusing story involved the time McGovern's dog went missing. Alarmed, McGovern went running through the neighborhood to find the animal. McGovern was soon being followed by a few dozen neighborhood kids, excited to see the champ. They thought he was training. Sometimes, though, the fanatics puzzled McGovern, such as when he tossed a souvenir wreath into the crowd after beating

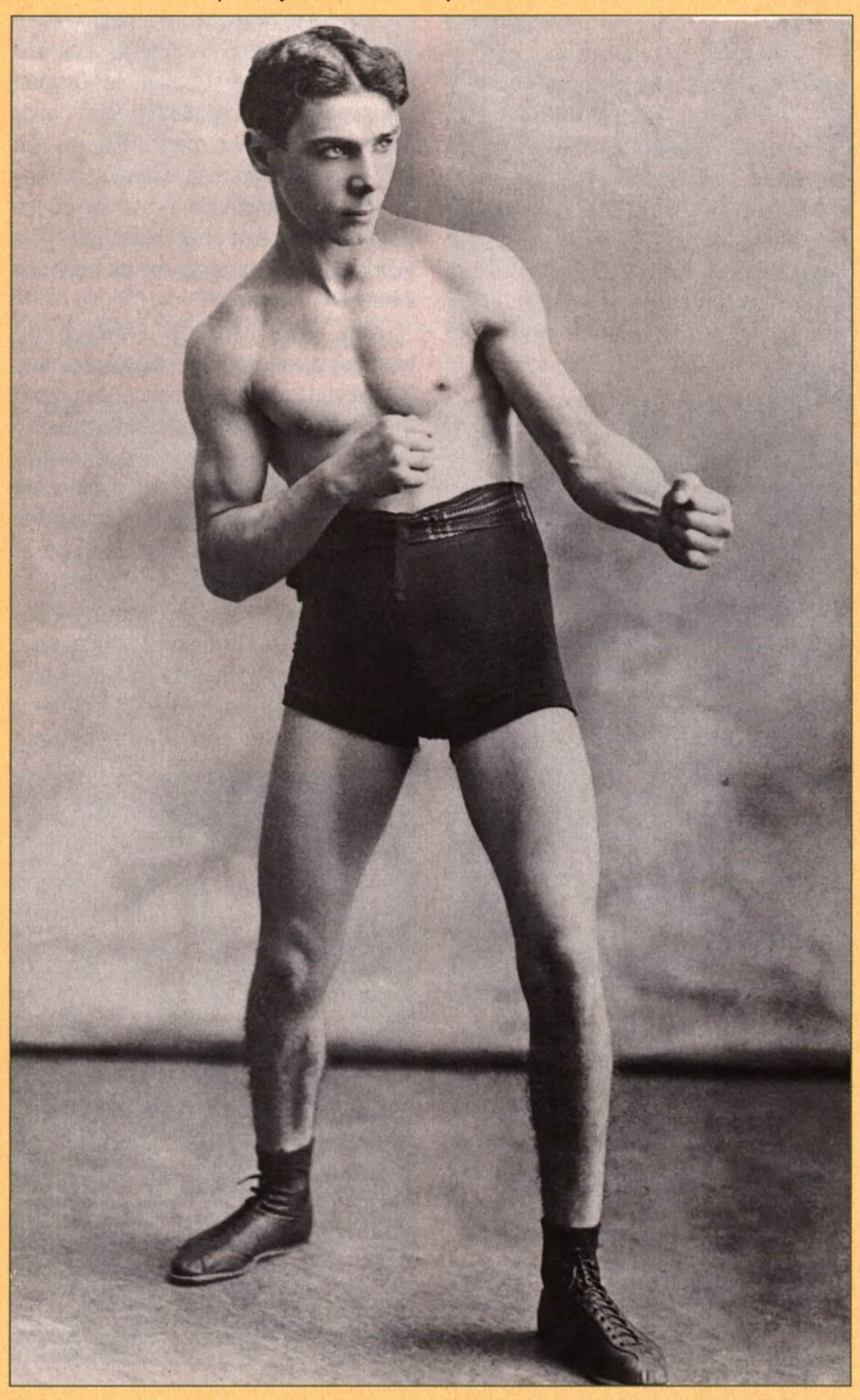


Success in the boxing ring enabled McGovern to appear in a series of lucrative Broadway productions. The champ was so popular that other performers copied his hairdo.

Palmer, only to see it ravaged until nothing remained but the wire skeleton.

Harris capitalized on McGovern's popularity by booking him on Broadway where he starred in such hits as *Gay Morning Glories*, *Fame And Fortune*, *The Road to Ruin*, and *The Bowery At Midnight*. McGovern's signature hairstyle—parted in the middle and slicked down—was soon copied by other actors until Broadway was awash in McGovern look-alikes.

McGovern lived well. He owned a string of racehorses and built a magnificent home for his wife Grace and their son, Terry Jr. (who was called Joey). Daughters Lilly and Annie would follow. He retired the bantamweight title, putting the belt in the window of a Brooklyn jeweler where hundreds of locals admired it daily. Politicians courted him for photo opportunities. Local baseball clubs hired him to umpire, knowing his presence would boost attendance. Not even a scandalous bout with Joe Gans could hurt his popularity. (Gans lost, but later confessed to faking because his manager had placed a bet on McGovern.)



McGovern had already won the bantam and featherweight titles by the time he faced lightweight champion Frank Erne (pictured) in July 1900. "Terrible Terry" knocked out Erne in the third round, but didn't gain the lightweight crown because it was a non-title fight.

Still, the most celebrated fighter since Sullivan was showing signs of anxiety. When a rookie sparring partner landed a lucky shot during an exhibition in Baltimore, McGovern went berserk, pummeling the youngster until referee Al Herferd pulled McGovern away. With chilling prescience, Herferd said, "Terry fought like a man who lost his head."

On Thanksgiving Day 1901, the boxing world was stunned when McGovern lost the featherweight title to Young Corbett II in Hartford, Connecticut. As legend has it, Corbett's heckling caused the hotheaded McGovern to come out recklessly, only to be stopped in two rounds. A rematch took place in San Francisco, with Corbett winning again by knockout. After creating an ugly scene by refusing to leave the ring, McGovern invaded Corbett's dressing room where the two nearly came to blows before police intervened. McGovern eventually gave Corbett his due. "Corbett could knock the rivets out of a warship," he said.

McGovern's supporters believed Harris had cost McGovern the championship, having created demands that prevented the fighter from training properly. But in a memoir published just before his death, Humphreys referred to McGovern as "an ignorant boy with any number of superstitions ... he got it into his head that an old Irish woman put the curse on him just before he was knocked out by Young Corbett." McGovern's downturn was compounded by the loss of his daughter Lilly, who died of an illness in January 1904; that same year McGovern's other daughter, Annie, died of a stomach disease.

After fainting during a stage performance, McGovern was brought to Stamford Hall Sanitarium in Connecticut in April of 1905. He *told The New York Times*, "I am alright, except that I am run down, and weak, and need rest." One evening McGovern decided to leave. After threatening to kill the attendants

McGovern (top, sitting on a chair) poses at training camp, along with several men who were influential in his career. The man on the far left is ring announcer Joe Humphries, and in the foreground is Charley Mayhood, Terry's first trainer. The two men sitting together on the right are sparring partners Eddie Cain and Kid Carter.

if they followed him, McGovern walked to a nearby depot and, still wearing his hospital clothes, took the next train to Manhattan. McGovern made headlines again that summer when he scuffled with a pair of Coney Island fortunetellers who'd hustled him. Still, he was well enough to knock out Harlem Tommy Murphy in one round that October.

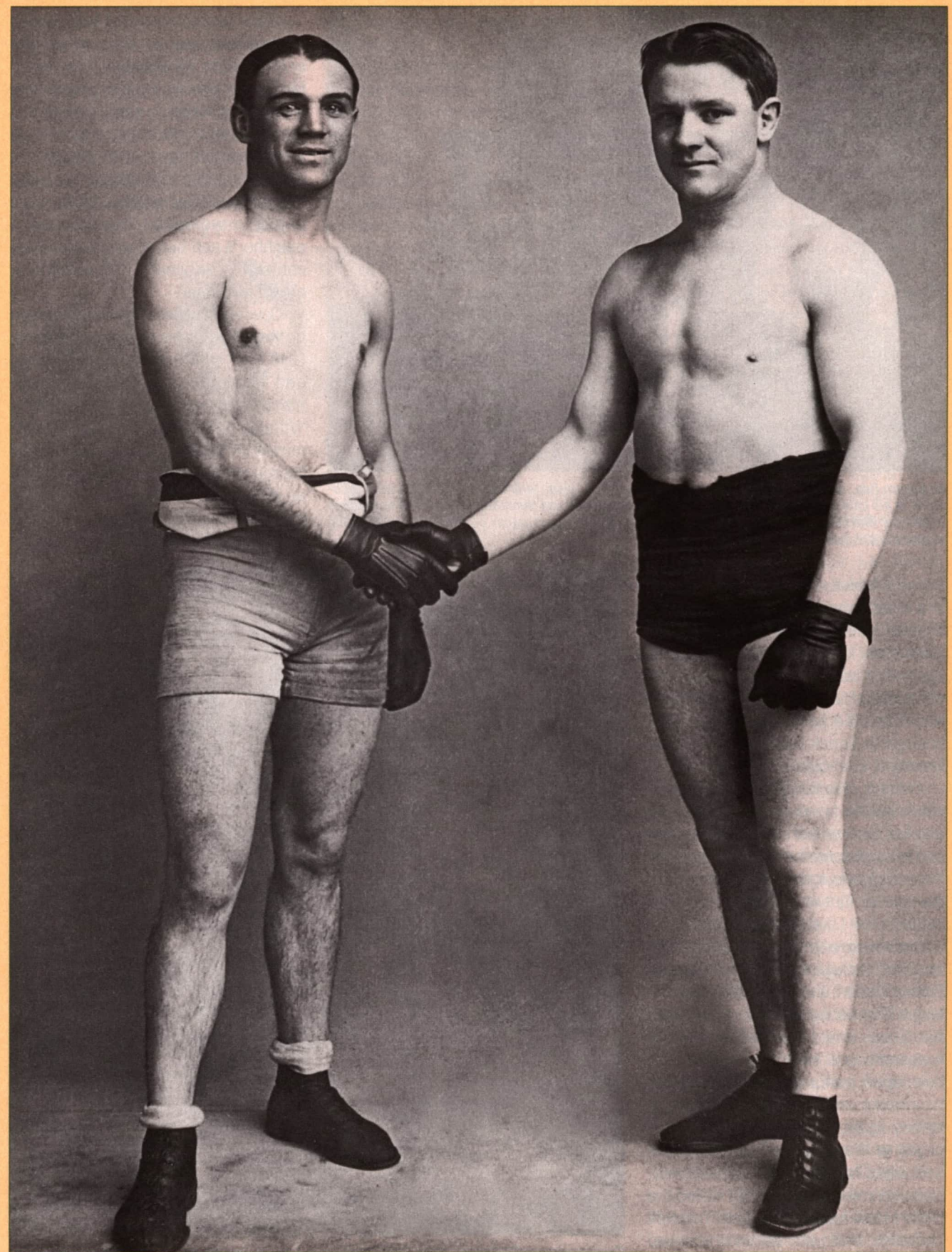
"I know of nothing that will shatter a man's health, no matter how strong he may be, quicker than worry," McGovern said in a syndicated article. "It was worry that completely upset me. I grieved over the loss of my two children. It was the hardest blow I had ever received."

McGovern resumed his career in 1906, struggling through no-decision bouts with Battling Nelson, and Jimmy Britt. He even fought Corbett again, to a no-decision. But Grace would later report that her husband was drinking heavily and had developed a strange habit of visiting racetracks and betting on imaginary horses. In November, McGovern journeyed to Washington D.C., where he was jailed for creating a disturbance. Upon his release, McGovern visited the White House to see President Theodore Roosevelt. McGovern somehow charmed his way in and allegedly babbled at the president for several minutes.

When Grace learned of McGovern's White House episode, she and her father headed for Washington. They found McGovern wandering the streets with a souvenir cannon shell tucked under his arm, a gift from an admirer in a Washington naval yard. McGovern agreed to return to Brooklyn, but when they arrived at their address, McGovern's behavior worsened. He grabbed a neighbor's ash barrel and dumped the contents over himself. "I'm doing penance," he yelled.

Covered in ashes, McGovern charged up the steps of his home, buckled the front door in, bounded into the parlor, and kicked out the windows. He demanded Grace bring him his revolver. Without McGovern knowing, she removed the bullets. McGovern continued his meltdown outside, aiming his pistol at frightened neighbors. The police got there as McGovern was slamming his souvenir shell on the sidewalk,

Family portrait: McGovern's wife Grace, with son Joey on her lap, and Terry with daughter Lilly. Never the most emotionally stable man, McGovern went off the rails following the death of Lilly and her sister Annie. McGovern said the twin tragedy was "the hardest blow I had ever received."



McGovern shakes hands with Young Corbett, who knocked out Terry in 1901 to capture the featherweight title in an upset. Corbett kayoed McGovern again in 1903, but McGovern finally gained a measure of revenge by getting the better of a no-decision bout in '06.

screaming that he would blow up the neighborhood.

He was rushed to Kings County Hospital where doctors diagnosed him as suffering from extreme nervous exhaustion. They put him in a padded cell and pronounced him "mentally dead."

McGovern was eventually released, but concussions, alcohol, and his own panicky disposition had broken him. In need of money, he agreed to box an exhibition with Corbett in Detroit. Baseball star Wild Bill Donovan of the Detroit Tigers acted as referee. Predictably, McGovern slugged Donovan, inciting a melee. McGovern then announced he was leaving boxing to play baseball. After appearing in some exhibition games with the New York Giants, he returned for two fights of little consequence.

As McGovern wandered through life like a ghost, print stories depicted Harris as a villain who had driven McGovern too hard. By now Harris had established a partnership with Broadway star George M. Cohan, giving the impression that he'd abandoned McGovern. But in truth, Harris had paid McGovern's hospital bills, organized benefits, and provided him with a job as a ticket-taker at a Manhattan opera house. Harris had also been subject to McGovern's paranoid raving—when Harris once visited McGovern at King's County Hospital, McGovern thought Harris had come to kill him; McGovern forced Harris to prove he was unarmed.

In retirement, the witches nesting in McGovern's mind showed him no mercy. Grace had him committed again, but McGovern broke into sobs and refused to go unless his mother accompanied him. In February 1910 McGovern was found unconscious in the street and taken to a hospital. McGovern said, "I am what they call a goner."

During his lucid moments, McGovern talked about buying a farm and leaving the city. He'd occasionally appear ringside with Corbett to watch McGovern's brothers, Hughie and Phil, who had followed Terry into boxing. In March 1914, McGovern feared he was losing his mind again and admitted himself to an asylum in Central Islip, Long Island. After that, McGovern scratched out a living for a few years until November 1917, when he collapsed while refereeing a match at Camp Upton. Three months later, he died at 37. The official cause was given as Bright's disease.

As often happens with the dead, McGovern's dark side was eclipsed by memories of better days, such as the time in Atlantic City when he dove into the surf to rescue a drowning woman. When the woman planned a special dinner in McGovern's honor, he didn't show up. That's how people remembered Terry. The rabid, Jekyll & Hyde alcoholic was replaced by a gutsy kid who was simply uncomfortable around people.

He was also revered for bringing to the ring a rare kind of molten power. When Jack Dempsey was in his heyday, many veteran writers referred to him as a "big McGovern." Later on, Henry Armstrong was sometimes referred to as a "black McGovern." The International Boxing Hall of Fame inducted McGovern in 1991, but the old "Brooklyn Terror" rarely gets a mention now, not even when Manny Pacquiao had his McGovern-like year in 2008. But 90 years earlier, as Rev. Father John Duhigg said the mass over McGovern's casket, the hundreds of devotees gathered at the Church of St. John the Evangelist believed his name would live forever.

Printed in the funeral's program was a tribute that read: "Some thousands of years back, in the days of the Roman empire, there was once a gladiator. If you will stand in the ruined coliseum of Rome as the dawn breaks and the night winds whisper their eternal memories, you will hear the name of that gladiator. The myriad memories of all ages have not been able to bury the echo of that name, for night winds are eternal and are but drifting souls. So it shall be with Terry McGovern."

Harris organized a procession of 40 carriages, four of which were needed for a special display consisting of 2,000 white roses, and 500 lilies. Many of the fight game's best were at the funeral, including Young Corbett, who wept as his old rival was buried next to his babies. ■

Don Stradley is a freelance writer from Massachusetts and a regular contributor to THE RING.

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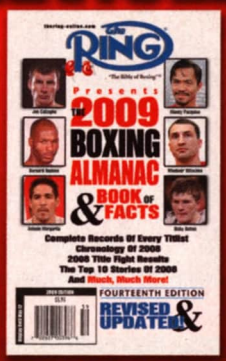

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YOUNG GUN TAVORIS CLOUD

Can He Shoot Down The Light Heavyweight Graybeards?

By Don Stewart
PHOTOS BY JAVIEL CENTENO/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Tavoris Cloud began feeling the sickness in his stomach shortly after he walked out of the ring, just as the adrenaline was wearing off. He thinks it might have been something he ate a couple days before the fight. Whatever the case, the freshly crowned beltholder threw up several times on the walk back to his hotel room.

It wasn't exactly the ideal postfight celebration. Cloud couldn't even get a congratulatory kiss from his wife, for fear he might make her sick. "There are still better things to come," Cloud said, referring to his performance that night against veteran contender Clinton Woods, "but I still did what I had to do. We got the championship."

Cloud flexes after handing Woods a one-sided beating (opposite page) to tally the biggest win of his budding career. The Tallahassee, Florida, slugger is among the new crop of young light heavyweights that hopes to replace the division's graybeards.

Dubbed by some as one of the best-kept secrets in the sport, Cloud fever has been spreading since his ESPN2-televised 12-round win on August 28 against Woods for the vacant IBF 175-pound belt. The 27-year-old Tallahassee, Florida, native has an entertaining style, an inspirational backstory, and a key element that most top light heavies lack these days.

"Having Cloud as a titleholder is refreshing, if for no other reason than in the light heavyweight division, 27-year-olds are usually still in diapers," *ShoBox* analyst Steve Farhood said. "When you add the fact that Cloud is an offensive fighter with a legitimate punch, he has to be included among the most attractive young fighters in the game, regardless of weight class."

With the impressive win, Cloud, 20-0 (18), billowed into THE RING rankings at number seven in a division that has been boxing's nursing home the past few years. Joe Calzaghe retired as champ in February at age 36. The current top 10 includes Bernard Hopkins (44), Glen Johnson (40), Antonio Tarver (40), Roy Jones (40), and Zsolt Erdei (35). Woods (37) was ranked number seven heading into his clash with Cloud.

"I think he broke through," Cloud's veteran trainer, Al Bonanni, said. "It's time for a change. Fighters like Cloud are a change."

The tiny youth movement in the division has been led by rising star Chad Dawson, who is scheduled to meet Johnson in a November 7 rematch. (If the top-rated Hopkins didn't sign for a light heavyweight bout by October 18, he'll have been dropped from the rankings due to inactivity, meaning Dawson-Johnson II will be for the vacant RING title.) Canada's Jean Pascal (26) is a titleholder and a contender, while Wales' Nathan Cleverly (22), Germany's Karo Murat (26), and Kazakhstan's Beibut Shumenov (26) are among the few prospects. "I feel I represent youth and talent in the division," Cloud said. "And strength, also."

After building themselves on the division's dinosaurs, Cloud and Dawson appear to be on a collision course. Bonanni said HBO has expressed interest in the matchup for 2010, assuming Dawson gets past Johnson.

"I'd love to see him secure a fight with Chad Dawson sooner rather than later," Farhood said. "In fact, that just might be among the 10 fights I'd most like to see."

The two were close to meeting earlier this year after Cloud became the mandatory challenger for Dawson's belt. Due to Cloud's obscurity at the time, HBO wasn't interested in the fight, so "Bad Chad" opted to vacate and take a more lucrative rematch with Johnson instead.

Veteran Woods survived some hellacious shots from Cloud, including this left hook to the chin, but the sturdy Englishman, who has only been stopped once in 48 pro bouts, hung tough to last the 12-round distance. Woods announced his retirement shortly after the fight.

Although he only won a couple of rounds, Woods tested Cloud's chin with a number of solid punches. Cloud's trainer, Al Bonanni, agrees his pupil needs to shore up his defense, especially against the left jab.

"I'm ready for Chad Dawson," Cloud said. "The question is: Is Chad Dawson ready for me? I'm ready and willing. We kind of got jerked around when I was the mandatory. But I'm at peace with it now, because my opportunity came, and I took full advantage of it."

Woods was a significant step up in class for Cloud, whose previous best win was a 10th-round stoppage of faded former contender Julio Gonzalez in August '08. He had to overcome a career-long 13-month layoff, the result of waiting for the Dawson situation to play itself out, as well as his mysterious stomach bug.

Cloud was characteristically aggressive from the opening bell. He used his quicker hands and relentless pace to outwork Woods and take control by the middle rounds. Woods, 42-5-1 (24), whose only stoppage loss came to Jones in '02, ate lots of leather throughout, but gamely withstood Cloud's barrages.

Cloud's best moments came late in the eighth round, when he nearly dropped the Brit with a left hook, and in the 10th, when Woods was taking so many shots that referee Telis Assimenios (USA) appeared to be on the verge of stopping it. According to CompuBox, Cloud threw 1,113 punches.

All three judges scored it 116-112 for Cloud. The Ring saw it 117-111, while ESPN analyst Teddy Atlas thought Cloud won it 119-108. It was only the 20th pro bout for a young fighter who had 54 amateur fights and probably has yet to peak.

"I'm not ready to identify him as a threat to the very best," Farhood said, "because wins over Julio Gonzalez and Woods don't fill out his resume."

Against the much more experienced Woods, Cloud did appear a bit raw at times. He often threw looping shots, which helped Woods score with a number of well-timed jabs. In fact, Woods landed almost 40 percent of his punches (265 of 677), though defense didn't seem to be the top priority on Cloud's agenda.

"Cloud is an exciting fighter, game and determined and obviously well conditioned, and I liked his hand speed and loved his double left hook to the body and head," fight writer Graham Houston said. "He did seem a sucker for a left jab, though, and I don't think he is quite the puncher his record makes him out to be. I would have liked to have seen him focus on the body more against Woods, who

has a steel chin and just wasn't going anywhere from the punches on top.

"I would like to think that this grueling 12-rounder will make Cloud a better fighter. He is relatively inexperienced and he now knows what it is like to be in a long, hard fight against someone who is able to take his best shots and keep firing back at him. So I would hope to see improvement in the next fight, maybe a bit more head movement, more jabbing, a bit more bodypunching."

Cloud, who was critical of himself for not adjusting his range during the fight, said ring rust and the stomach virus hurt his performance somewhat. Bonanni, who has been in Cloud's corner since his third pro bout, graded his fighter at a C+. He was honest in admitting Cloud's susceptibility to Woods' jab, saying that it's the most glaring thing that needs to be worked on in training.

"I think he was taken back also by the crowd," Bonanni said of the packed house at the Seminole Hark Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, Florida. "It was his first big fight in a big arena. He's even better than what he showed."

It was only the second time that Cloud got to show his stuff on national television. Minus the backing of a major promoter, a high-powered manager, or HBO and Showtime, the building of Cloud has resembled a grassroots movement.

Cloud—who is managed by Bonanni's uncle, Jerry Attardi, and promoted by Florida-based outfit Richie Boy—isn't going to wait around for Dawson again. He wants to fight again by the end of 2009, and if there are no U.S. television dates available, he's willing to go overseas and take on the likes of Erdei.

"You won't have to wait a year to see Tavoris Cloud again," he said. "I've heard the fans like my violence. I want to give them some more violence."

With his dramatic life story and his must-see style, Cloud figures to be a network executive's dream come true. Raised by a single mother in drug-infested neighborhoods of Tallahassee and Quincy, Florida, Cloud overcame a hardscrabble childhood that seems more befitting of a third-world nation than the Florida panhandle.

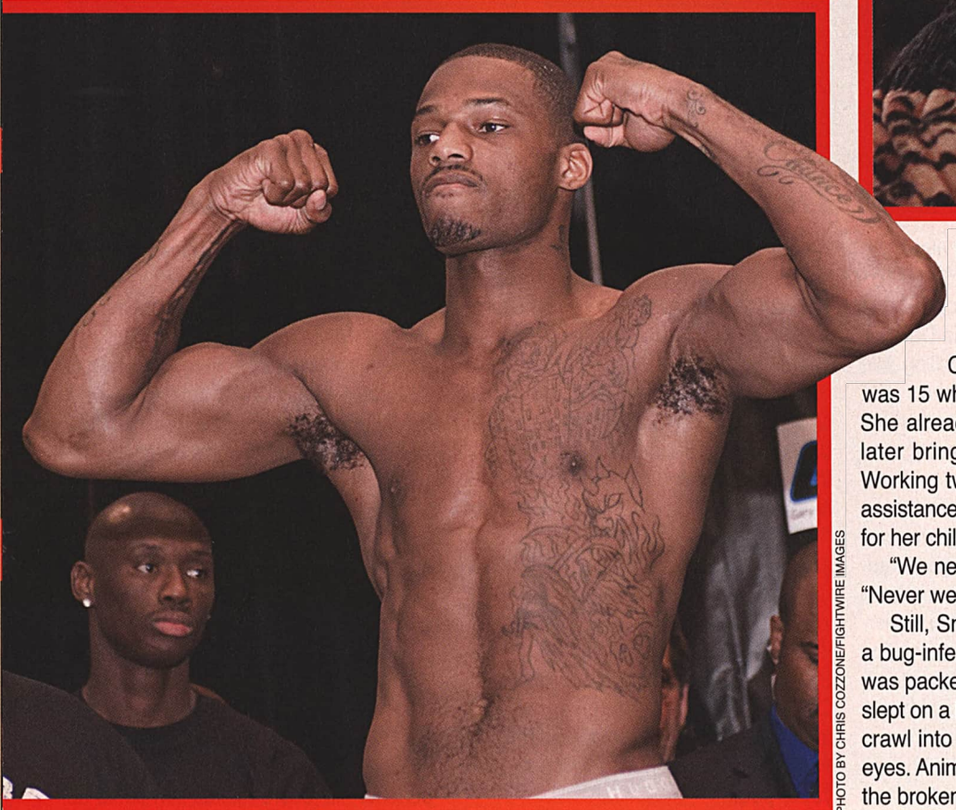


PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Is Chad Dawson in Cloud's future? He'll have to get past Glen Johnson first, but according to Cloud's camp, HBO is interested in a showdown between the two young studs of the 175-pound class.

Cloud's mother, Emma Smith, was 15 when she gave birth to Tavoris. She already had one child, and would later bring three more into the world. Working two jobs and relying on public assistance, Smith did the best she could for her children.

"We never went hungry," Cloud said. "Never went cold."

Still, Smith had to raise her family in a bug-infested two-bedroom house that was packed with 10 to 15 people. Cloud slept on a hard floor, afraid a roach might crawl into his mouth after he closed his eyes. Animals often wandered in through the broken front door.

When Cloud was 16, Smith's refrigerator was repossessed. Cloud and his siblings were forced to fill a foot tub with ice to keep their food from spoiling. At that point, Cloud decided it was time to try to take control of his destiny.

Earlier that year, he'd wandered into the gym of boxing coach Alonzo Johnson, a high school administrator who had a brief stint in the late-1990s as an NFL receiver. Impressed with the youngster's work ethic and ability, Johnson offered to let Cloud move into his Tallahassee home, sparing Smith the 30-minute commute from Quincy. After the refrigerator was taken, Cloud told his mother he was accepting Johnson's offer.

"He's always been a self-motivated, self-disciplined young man," said Johnson, who became a father figure to Cloud and still serves as his conditioning coach. "I've never had any problems with him. He's always matured with his age."

Boxing and Johnson might have saved Cloud's life. His older brother is serving a life sentence for a burglary with assault. Cloud dropped out of high school, and in 2000 was charged with a misdemeanor battery and criminal mischief. He's stayed out of trouble since, however, and has gone back to get his GED.

"I'd rather come up the rough side of the mountain," Cloud said, "because if I'm falling down, I got something to grab onto. If you go up the smooth side, you fall, you're just gonna bust your ass."

Married to wife Eileen, Cloud now hopes to be a role model to his four-year-old daughter, E'lisha, or anyone else who might be moved by his story.

"What he has is something a lot of American fighters don't have right now, and that's the hunger," Bonanni said. "That's why you see so many Eastern Europeans and Mexican and South Americans achieving. This kid has that burning desire, which a lot of people say they have. But they don't train as hard and they don't come where he's come from."

Cloud also brings youth, the ingredient that tends to be the most fleeting. And few classes, if any, need a new face as badly as the senior-dominated light heavies.

"There's a changing of the guard in the light heavyweight division," Bonanni said. "He's still developing. He's still fresh, he's still learning, but he's ready. He's been ready."

The question is, is boxing ready for Tavoris Cloud? ■

Don Stewart covers boxing for the Reading (Pennsylvania) Eagle and is a regular contributor to THE RING.

In the trenches: Cloud did well when he went downstairs, but needs to work the body more as he tackles the best light heavyweights in the world. Despite winning 116-112 on all three official scorecards, his trainer only gave Cloud a C+ for his title-winning performance.

[Summary]

Heavyweights
Vitali Klitschko KO 10 Chris Arreola
(Retains WBC Title)
Samuel Peter KO 2 Ronald Bellamy
James Toney KO 2 Matthew Greer
Raphael Zumbano W12 Orlando Antonio Farias
Tyson Fury W 10 John McDermott
Solomon Haumono KO 10 Michael Kirby
Francesco Pianeta KO 9 Matt Skelton
Gbenga Oloukun KO 8 Lamon Brewster
Jason Estrada KO 7 Zuri Lawrence
Chazz Witherspoon KO 2 Willie Perryman
Johnathon Banks W 8 Javier Mora
Cedric Boswell W 8 Cisse Salif
Tor Hamer W 6 Theron Johnson
David Rodriguez KO 3 Robert Davis
Raphael Butler KO 2 Marcus Rhode
Zoltan Petranyi KO 1 Zoltan Peto

Cruiserweights
Marco Huck W 12 Victor Emilo Ramirez
Matt Godfrey W 10 Michael Simms
Juan Romo KO 3 Ramiro Siordia
Alexander Frenkel KO 3 Jozsef Nagy
Emmanuel Nwodo KO 1 Lenzie Morgan

Light Heavyweights
Jean Pascal KO 10 Silvio Branco
(Retains WBC Title)
Tavoris Cloud W 12 Clinton Woods
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)
Andre Ward KO 3 Shelby Pudwill
Karo Murat W 12 Sergey Demchenko
Mark Tucker W 10 Jim Strohl
Joey Gilbert KO 5 Ivan Stovall
Carl Dilks W 10 Billy Boyle
Ronald Johnson W 10 Billy Bailey
Soulan Pownceby W 12 Togasilimai Letoa
Javier Francisco Maciel KO 3 Francisco Mora
Vikapita Meroro KO 2 Tineyi Maridzo

Super Middleweights
Mikkel Kessler KO 4 Gusmyr Perdomo
(Retains WBA Title)
Thomas Oosthuizen W 10 Cleber Alves
Fernando Guerrero KO 3 Chris Archer
Kingsley Ikeke W 10 Mark Woolnough
Roberto Santos KO 5 Miguel Angel Pena
Adonis Stevenson KO 5 Jermain Mackey
James McGirt Jr. KO 3 Anthony Pietrantonio
Sebastien Demers KO 1 Jose Spearman
Isaac Rodriguez W 8 Marcos Primera

Middleweights
Sebastian Sylvester W 12 Giovanni Lorenzo
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)
Matthew Macklin KO 1 Amin Asikainen
Howard Eastman KO 10 Kevin Placide
Mamadou Thiam KO 9 Florian Wildenhof
Mohammad Said KO 2 Carlos Oliveira
Joachim Alcine W 10 Eric Mitchell
David Lemieux KO 5 Bladimir Hernandez

Junior Middleweights
Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. KO 1 Jason LeHoullier
Alfonso Gomez KO 1 Raul Munoz
Hector Camacho Jr. W 10 Israel Cardona
Nobuhiro Ishida W 12 Marco Avendano
Austin Trout W 11 Nilson Tapia
Marcos Reyes W 10 Beibi Berrocal
Kris Andrews W 10 Anthony Lessard
Jimmy Lange KO 9 Jonathan Reid
Demetrius Andrade KO 6 John Williams
Shawn Porter KO 1 Lamar Harris
Christy Martin W 10 Dakota Stone

Welterweights
Floyd Mayweather W 12 Juan Manuel Marquez
Ali Nuumbembe W 12 Samuel Malinga
Jesus Soto Karass W 10 Edvan Dos Santos Barros
Yo Inoue W 10 Jonathan Simamora
DeMarcus Corley W 8 Harrison Cuello
Roberto Garcia KO 2 Santiago Icabalceta
Said Ouali KO 2 Francisco Gil
Saul Alvarez KO 1 Carlos Herrera
Jose Luis Castillo KO 2 Carlos Urias
Joel Torres KO 1 Washington Hago
Steve Chambers KO 2 Aaron Drake
Javier Castro KO 1 Heriberto Gutierrez
Holly Holm W 10 Terri Blair
Orlando Lora W 8 Hicklet Lau

Junior Welterweights
Juan Urango KO 11 Randall Bailey
(Retains IBF Title)
Carlos Ahumada W 12 Martin Coggi
Jose Cotto KO 4 Anthony Woods
Donaldo Holguin W 10 Cristian Favela
Dennis Laurente W 10 Zaid Zavaleta
Kenny Galarza KO 10 Joshua Allotey

Lenny Daws KO 10 Barry Morrison
Alberto Mosquera KO 4 Henry Aurad
Francisco Contreras KO 2 Julian Rodriguez

Lightweights

Michael Katsidis W 12 Vicente Escobedo
David Diaz W 10 Jesus Chavez
Youssef Al Hamidi W 10 Steve Saville
John Molina KO 1 Efren Hinojosa

Junior Lightweights

Humberto Soto KO 2 Aristides Perez
Roman Martinez KO 9 Feider Viloria
Terdsak Jandaeng W 12 Roel Laguna
Sung-Tae Kim W 10 Jong-Gun Baek
Domingo Vilpan W 10 Hardy Paredes
Ji Hoon Kim KO 10 Zolani Marali
Argenis Mendoza KO 5 Anthony Napuny
Frankie Archuleta W 8 Lovenzo Estrada

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Lightweight Michael Katsidis rams a right to Vicente Escobedo's chin

Featherweights

Chris John W 12 Rocky Juarez
(Retains WBA Title)
Daniel Ponce De Leon W 12 Roinet Caballero
Takalani Ndlovu W 12 Kiko Martinez
Steve Molitor KO 5 Dario Azuaga
Jhonny Gonzalez KO 1 Jose Mendoza
Z Gorres KO 6 Cruz Carbajal
Cornelius Lock KO 5 Orlando Cruz
Alberto Garza KO 10 Eusebio Osejo
Jung-Suk Soh W 10 Jong-Won Won
Juan Martinez W 10 Jose Hernandez

Junior Featherweights

Celestino Caballero KO 8 Francisco Leal
(*Retains WBA/IBF Titles*)
Poonsawat Kratingdaenggym KO 3 Bernard Dunne
(Wins WBA Title)
Fernando Montiel Tech. Draw 3
Alejandro Valdez
Martin Castillo W Disq. 6 German Meraz
Leon Moore W 12 Mauricio Pastrana
Balweg Bangoyan W 12 Raymond Sermona
AJ Banal W 10 Jose Angel Beranza
Matthew Marsh W 10 Josh Wale
Teon Kennedy D 10 Lante Addy
Ana Julaton W 10 Kelsey Jeffries

Bantamweights

Abner Mares KO 6 Carlos Fulgencio
Nehomar Cermeno W 12 Cristian Mijares
Vusi Malinga KO 3 Fadhili Majia
Vincent Palicte W 12 Carlo Magale
Lubabalo Msuthu W 12 Nick Otieno
Thangthong Kiattaweesuk W 12 Richard Olisa
Chris Avalos KO 4 Giovanni Caro
Daiki Kameda KO 4 Jose Alberto Cuadros
William Gonzalez W 8 Munekazu Kato

Junior Bantamweights

Simphiwe Nongqayi W 12 Jorge Arce
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)
Marvin Sonsona W 12 Jose Lopez
Daigo Nakahiro W 10 Hidenobu Honda
Themba Joyi W 12 Miniyakhe Sityatha
Victor Zaleta W 10 Gilberto Baas
Koki Kameda KO 5 Humberto Pool
Roberto Leyva KO 3 Omar Soriano

Flyweights

Pongsaklek Wonjongkam KO 6 Takahisa Masuda
Wilbert Uicab W 12 Alejandro Hernandez
Luis Concepcion KO 12 Omar Salado
Saenmuangloei Sor Kingstar D 12 Eric Diaz Siregar
Cesar Seda KO 8 Omar Soto

Junior Flyweights

Ivan Calderon Tech. Win 7 Rodel Mayol
(*Retains World Title*)
Brian Viloria W 12 Jesus Iribe
(Retains IBF Title)
Edgar Sosa KO 6 Omar Soto
(Retains WBC Title)
Ulises Solis W 8 Dirceu Cabarca
Denver Cuello W 10 Ruslee Samoh
Juanito Rubillar KO 3 Jayson Geda
Kompayak Porpramook W 12 Yanus Emaury

Strawweights

Donnie Nietes W 12 Manuel Vargas
Yasutaka Kuroki W 12 Heri Amol
Akira Yaegashi W 10 Junichiro Kaneda

Robert Guerrero W 12 Malcolm Klassen

Houston, Texas: In a heated battle, Guerrero dethroned IBF 130-pound titleholder Klassen of South Africa at the Toyota Center, picking up his third alphabet belt in two divisions. "The Ghost" had his share of scary moments, though, having to fight with a cut eye and broken hand against a tenacious and determined opponent.

A lanky southpaw, Guerrero, 130, Gilroy, California, swept the first four rounds by pumping his right jab to keep Klassen at bay and set up right-left-right combinations. Deftly circling side to side, he forced Klassen, 129¼, to repeatedly set and reset.

Fighting outside his homeland for the first time, Klassen found a measure of success with a sneaky dip-and-punch maneuver. He would dip right to avoid incoming blows before exploding full pivot with his right to Guerrero's face. But while his punches appeared harder than Guerrero's, they were too few and far between to win him any of the early rounds.

The momentum swung Klassen's way in the fifth, the round Guerrero claimed he broke his left hand. Suddenly able to close the distance, the titleholder bore in and bludgeoned Guerrero's head and body with compact punches throughout the middle rounds. When he connected with more than one clean punch at a time, he bounced Guerrero's head around like a double-ended speed bag. But Guerrero exuded grace under fire as he bobbed, weaved, and spun away each time vicious flurries were rained upon him.

The Ghost proved to be a mere mortal when Klassen drew blood from a gash above his left eye in the eighth, but ironically enough, that was the juncture at which Guerrero, 26, regained control of the fight. Realizing the futility of brawling on the inside, Guerrero reestablished his jab and resumed boxing from a distance. Although his punches lacked the pop of the earlier rounds, he nevertheless landed frequently enough to win most of the late rounds. When Klassen got too close for comfort, Guerrero strategically tied him up or spun out of range. It might not have been the most crowd-pleasing way to "clinch" the victory, but it nonetheless got the job done.

Judges Charles Phillips (USA), Isaac Tshabalala (South Africa), and Luis Rivera (USA) scored 117-111, 116-113, and 116-112, respectively, all for Guerrero. The Ring tallied 117-112 for Guerrero.

PHOTO BY JOE CORDOVA/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Guerrero overcomes cut to decision Klassen

"I beat him by working that jab, keeping him at range, and circling to the right," Guerrero, 25-1-1 (17), said. "He hit me with some good shots, but he didn't hurt me."

Guerrero cited fellow titleholders Jorge Linares and Humberto Soto as ideal future opponents for unification showdowns.

Fluctuating between gracefully and grudgingly accepting defeat, Klassen, 24-5-2 (17), said: "When I hurt him, he held on. He didn't want to trade with me. I would have knocked him out if he traded with me."

Television: **HBO**
Promoters: **Golden Boy Promotions, DiBella Entertainment**
(8-22-09)
Peter Lim

Daniel Jacobs W 10 Ishe Smith

Houston, Texas: In an intriguing youth-versus-experience matchup, middleweight prospect Jacobs passed his sternest test, winning a unanimous 10-round decision over the always-cagey Smith at the Toyota Center. It was Jacobs' busier punch output and slight edge in strength that ultimately tilted the scales on an otherwise evenly contested affair.

After a feeling-out first round, Smith, 159, Las Vegas, Nevada, dictated the action in rounds two and three by stalking Jacobs, 159¾, Brooklyn, New York, around the ring and attacking the head and body at opportune moments. Holding his gloves high, he picked off most of Jacobs' shots and countered with solid, if sometimes wild, hooks and overhand rights.

Finally finding his rhythm, Jacobs swung the momentum his way in the fourth by darting in and out with multi-punch combinations. Smith continued to connect at a decent rate, but appeared to be loading up on his shots. When they traded toe-to-toe, it was Jacobs who landed harder and landed more.

Hoping perhaps to psyche out his greener opponent, Smith, 31, began verbally taunting "The Golden Child" and initiated a post-bell scuffle after the fifth. Referee Laurence Cole (USA) could have easily taken a point from Smith, but instead let him off with a warning. Jacobs, 22, nevertheless, remained workmanlike and continued outpunching Smith, usually landing the first and last shots of each exchange through the middle rounds.

[The Ring Fighter of the Month]

Floyd Mayweather

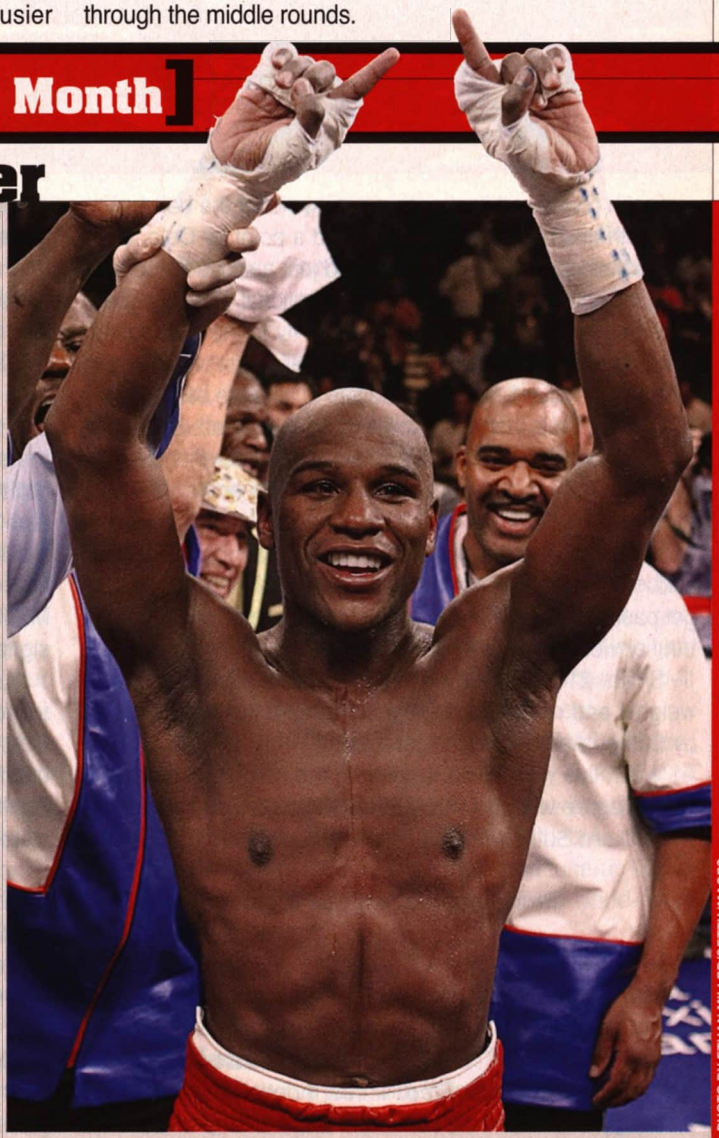


PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

There was a wave of criticism in some corners regarding Floyd Mayweather's performance against Juan Manuel Marquez, arguing that "Money" had a chance to truly distinguish himself by becoming the first to knock out Marquez and didn't take advantage of that opportunity. And that's certainly a valid point; had Mayweather opened up and gotten the kayo, he would have done something no one had ever done before.

But lost in that argument is the reality that even without scoring a stoppage, Mayweather did something no one had ever done before: He beat Marquez controversy-free.

Look back at Marquez' record. In his pro debut, he lost via unfair first-round disqualification. His next loss was an unpopular decision against Freddie Norwood. Then came a hometown decision to Chris John, and later there was a debatable split decision to Manny Pacquiao. An argument existed that Marquez deserved to be 55-0 prior to fighting Mayweather.

But there was no argument about the Mexican being unbeaten once Mayweather was done with him. Mayweather, coming off a 21-month layoff, was almost perfect against the number-two pound-for-pound fighter, arguably scoring a shutout. What more can you really ask for?

No, Mayweather didn't get the knockout. But he still went where no man had ever gone before, and looked damned good doing it.

Jacobs steps up in class to beat Smith

PHOTO BY JOE CORDOVA/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Smith connected flush with a one-two after the bell ending the ninth and was this time penalized a point by Cole, a tad unusual since the infraction occurred just a split second after the gong and seemed completely unintentional. Having a steep deficit to overcome, Smith let his fists fly in the 10th round, resulting in some fierce exchanges. The late burst of aggression won him the round, but came too late to alter the outcome.

Judges Gale Van Hoy (USA) and Raul Caiz Sr. (USA) both scored 96-93 for Jacobs, while David Sutherland (USA) tallied a baffling 100-89 shutout. THE RING scored it 97-94 for Jacobs.

"I just wanted to get the rounds in," Jacobs, 18-0 (15), said. "As I climb up the ladder in the ratings I need to work, to get past the guys who are going to pester me. He was crafty, but I obviously thought I won the fight."

Smith, 21-4 (9), said he intended to abandon the middleweights and resume campaigning at 154. He was outraged by Sutherland's lopsided scorecard.

"I can live with 96-93, even with the point deduction that I didn't agree with, but 100-89?" Smith asked, incredulously. "Was David Sutherland even in the house?"

Television: **HBO**
Promoters: **Golden Boy Promotions, DiBella Entertainment**
(8-22-09)
Peter Lim

Ivan Calderon Tech. Win 7 Rodel Mayol

San Juan, Puerto Rico: Three months after their first meeting produced a clash of heads and a six-round technical draw, Calderon and Mayol again played head games. The two waged another close chess match that ended prematurely due to an accidental headbutt, though this time THE RING junior flyweight champion was ahead on two of the three cards in their pay-per-view main event at Coliseo Jose Miguel Agrelot.

Time was called with 26 seconds remaining in the seventh round after the 34-year-old southpaw Calderon, 107½, and the 28-year-old Mayol, 107¼, bumped heads for at least the sixth time in the fight. Both fighters recoiled after this collision, though, and referee Luis Pabon (Puerto Rico) took time out to examine the resulting cut just below Calderon's hairline. The gash was in almost the same spot as the fight-ending cut Calderon suffered three months before at Madison Square Garden, and the ringside doctor quickly signaled Pabon to stop it.

American judges Julie Lederman and Dr. Ruben Garcia scored it 68-65 for the champion, while Puerto Rico's Carlos Colon scored it 68-65 for the Filipino challenger. THE RING had Mayol ahead 67-66 after giving him the seventh round. Each round was close and very difficult to score. There were easily more head and lead-foot collisions than clean punches landed.

"I went back to my old style, being quick and elusive," said Calderon, 34-0-1 (6), who tried to slug it out a bit more in his first meeting with Mayol, 25-4-1 (19). It was his sixth defense of THE RING junior flyweight championship, and his third straight bout to go to the cards early due to a head clash.

Neither slick fighter landed much in the first round, but the taller Mayol, of Los Angeles, California, by way of Cebu, Philippines, moved forward and used his jab and reach to often force

Calderon backward. There were three clashes of heads in the second, when the jab and defense of Calderon, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, appeared to give him the slight edge.

Calderon landed the cleaner shots in the third, when he connected with a decent right to the face with 22 seconds to go, and then smacked Mayol with a three-punch combo down the pipe just before the bell. Mayol outworked Calderon in the fourth, when the champ moved backward and didn't seem to do enough to get the round. Mayol was busier throughout the fight, but mostly hit air and gloves. As a result, he seemed to be tiring a bit in the fifth, when Calderon came forward to land a four-punch combination midway through the round.

Mayol, who was rated number nine by THE RING entering the bout, caught his breath in the sixth, when he landed a few clean shots to take the round. He opened the seventh with a solid left hook to the head and right to the body, just before the heads collided again. There was no damage that time, and after the chess match resumed, Mayol landed a strong right upstairs that momentarily stopped Calderon. The headbutt that opened the fight-ending cut came a minute later, ending a fight in which the challenger appeared to be gaining momentum.

The cut seemed to be harmless and was mostly plugged up by the time the verdict was announced. Afterward, Calderon, who also holds the WBO trinket, reiterated his desire to beat the division's other beltholders, including Brian Viloria (IBF) and Edgar Sosa (WBC), then move up and win the flyweight title. "Bring them all on," he said to color analyst Benny Rodriguez. "Wherever they want to fight, I'm ready."

Television: **Pay-Per-View**
Promoter: **Puerto Rico's Best Boxing Promotion**
(9-12-09)

Roman Martinez KO 9 Feder Viloria

San Juan, Puerto Rico: Viloria's fancy footwork kept him in the fight until the closing seconds of the ninth, when the patiently stalking "Rocky" Martinez finally caught up with the late sub and produced a spectacular finish on the Ivan Calderon-Rodel Mayol II undercard at Coliseo Jose Miguel Agrelot.

Martinez connected with an overhand right to the head that left Viloria badly shaken along the ropes. THE RING's number-four junior lightweight then fired 10 unanswered shots, four of which landed flush, before Viloria, 129¼, slipped away from the ropes. As Viloria wobbled across the ring in retreat, Martinez, 129½, blasted him with a beautiful lunging right hand to the chin. Viloria collapsed in a heap, somehow made it back to his knees, but was counted out by referee Roberto Ramirez (Puerto Rico) at 2:59 of the ninth.

It was the first defense of the WBO junior lightweight strap Martinez took from Nicky Cook in England back in March. "I was happy to come back to the land that I love," the 26-year-old native of nearby Vega Baja, Puerto Rico, said afterward. "It took a lot of 'Rocky' to pull out this win."

The 26-year-old Viloria, of Arboletes, Colombia, was summoned at the 11th hour when original opponent Vicente Martin Rodriguez withdrew due to visa issues. Viloria had dropped three of his previous five bouts, with knockouts to Antonio Escalante and Oscar Larios preceding a points loss to Jorge Lacierva, but was coming off a March win against vet Renan Acosta.

Viloria showed excellent foot speed early as he stayed on the outside to avoid danger, but struggled to get close enough to effectively tag the forward-moving Martinez. The crowd favorite got his right hand working in the second, including a straight right off a double jab that sent Viloria reeling into the ropes. Viloria had bad swelling under his right eye at the start of the third, when he finally came forward and landed a looping left hook to the chin in the final 10 seconds.

Viloria was doing his best work at close range, but it was a gamble whenever he came forward against his stronger, slightly quicker opponent. Meanwhile, by the seventh, Martinez seemed to have forgotten the bodywork that appeared to be slowing down Viloria in the early going. Viloria landed the cleaner shots in the fourth and sixth, while Martinez needed big shots in the final 10 seconds to pull out the fifth, seventh, and eighth rounds.

With Viloria, 22-5-1 (15), beginning to tire in the ninth, Martinez, 23-0-1 (14), finally got close enough to land the big right hand over the top that set up the spectacular knockout.

Afterward, Martinez called out the other 130-pound beltholders. "Those guys are all champions," he said, "but when we get in the ring, it will be me against them, and that's the opportunity I'm looking for."

Television: **Pay-Per-View**
Promoter: **Puerto Rico's Best Boxing Promotion**
(9-12-09)

Celestino Caballero KO 8 Francisco Leal

Mexicali, Mexico: Caballero, arguably the best 122-pounder in the world, had hoped 2009 would be a breakout year, but instead it's been a call-out year for "El Pelenchin." He has tried desperately to trash-talk his way into a showdown with Juan Manuel Lopez, calling out "JuanMa" at every turn, but has had to settle instead for marking-time bouts. Back in April, he struggled to a close decision over Jeffrey Mathebula. And in one of the featured bouts on a 17-fight card (yes, you read that correctly) at Ciudad Deportiva, he scored his eighth defense of the WBA title and second defense of the IBF belt by turning away the ridiculously overmatched Leal.

Not only did local fighter Leal, 121½, Mexicali, Mexico, sport a mediocre 14-4-2 (9) record coming in, but of the 14 wins, only one had come against an opponent with a winning record. Perhaps the close shave against Mathebula caused Caballero's people to take a different view on tune-up fights, as they picked an opponent this time with no world-class credentials whatsoever.

Caballero, 121½, Panama City, Panama, took charge in the opening round with a knockdown, and the rout was on. The unified beltholder dished out a steady beating for seven rounds, using the long arms on his 5'11" frame to control the distance and follow his jabs with thudding right hands. Leal showed plenty of heart, but not much else. The bell rang for the

eighth round, but Leal remained on his stool, the fight officially reached its conclusion at the 10-second mark of the round.

At 33 years of age, Caballero, 33-2 (23), can't afford many more wasted years like this. He's still hoping a bout with Lopez—which would be for the vacant RING title—can be arranged, but Lopez had an October fight against Rogers Mtagwa scheduled as we went to press, so Caballero-Lopez will at least have to wait until 2010.

Promoter: **KO Entertainment**
(8-29-09)

Nonito Donaire W 12 Rafael Concepcion

Las Vegas, Nevada: Former IBF flyweight titleholder Donaire, who headlined Top Rank's "Pinoy Power 2" card at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, discovered that his power didn't have quite the devastating effect at his new weight as it did at 112 pounds. Although "The Filipino Flash" won a unanimous decision, he discovered that things wouldn't be quite as easy as he thought when he decided to move up.

Making matters worse was the fact that Concepcion failed to make the 115-pound weigh limit, coming in at 119½, which cost him 20 percent of his $65,000 purse, with $6,500 going to Donaire and $6,500 to the Nevada State Athletic Commission. But although his wallet was considerable lighter, the weight advantage undoubtedly helped the Panama City, Panama, resident to survive the kind of slashing blows from Donaire that had leveled smaller men.

Although Donaire, 26, was born in the Philippines and has resided most of his adult life in the USA, he has been living back in the Philippines in recent months and was introduced as being from General Santos City.

Donaire got off to a dominating start, landing pretty much as he pleased in the first round, but in the second, Concepcion, 27, hurt him with two clean rights and then a left hook. By the end of the round, Donaire's cheek was beginning to swell, and Concepcion was bleeding from a cut over his left eye.

The scare convinced Donaire that an all-out assault was not the way to go, so he climbed on his bike in the third, scooting around the ring, evading his foe's attempts to follow up on his success the previous round. These tactics also worked well early in the fourth, as Donaire scored from the outside. But when Donaire came down off his toes and exchanged late in the round, Concepcion fired back with hard shots of his own, as what many had assumed would be an easy win for Donaire turned into an entertaining contest.

An accidental clash of heads seemed to stun Donaire in the fifth, and Concepcion, sensing an opportunity, poured on the pressure in the sixth, landing several good rights. Donaire just couldn't find the punches to hold him off, and at the halfway mark, Donaire was only leading by a narrow 58-57 margin on THE RING's scorecard.

Although it was seldom easy, Donaire steadily pulled ahead the second half of the fight, making excellent use of lateral movement, jabs, and accurate counters. Late in the eighth round, he opened up and stunned Concepcion with a cluster of rapid-fire shots.

There was little to choose between them in the ninth, as both connected with jabs. But Donaire enjoyed another highly productive round in the 10th, dominating with his jab before punctuating the session with a ripping uppercut at the bell, much to the delight of the 1,838 Donaire fans.

The 11th was similar, except that Concepcion rocked Donaire late in the round to keep his hopes alive.

The final round was perhaps the most entertaining of a lively encounter as Donaire, 22-1 (14), decided to stand and slug it out with his larger adversary. The eventual winner got the better of the exchanges, thanks in part to his excellent upper-body movement, but Concepcion, 13-4-1 (8), also had his moments in bristling two-way action.

All three American judges, Max DeLuca, Duane Ford, and Jerry Roth, scored it for Donaire by tallies of 117-111, 115-113, and 116-112, respectively. THE RING scored it for Donaire, 118-113.

The referee was Vic Drakulich (USA).

Television: **Pay-Per-View**
Promoter: **Top Rank**
(8-15-09)

PHOTO BY MARY ANN OWEN/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Donaire found Concepcion tougher than anticipated

Steve Luevano W Disq. 7 Bernabe Concepcion

Las Vegas, Nevada: Concepcion saved his best punch for last. Unfortunately for the Filipino, the crushing right hand that knocked Luevano down came after the bell had sounded to end the seventh round, and resulted in Luevano successfully defending the WBO featherweight trinket for a fifth time, via disqualification.

Concepcion, 125½, Binangonan, Philippines, buzzed southpaw Luevano, 125½, with a hard left hook to win the opening round of the scheduled 12-rounder on the

PHOTO BY MARY ANN OWEN/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Doctor aids Luevano following foul

Nonito Donaire-Rafael Concepcion card at the Hard Rock. He also scored with a glancing right, but Luevano, La Puente, California, had recovered by the end of the round.

Luevano, 28, took charge in the second, popping lead right hands into Concepcion's face while employing his boxing skills to prevent his harder-hitting challenger from getting off. This continued through the third and most of the fourth, until the 21-year-old Concepcion landed a solid bodyshot late in the round.

By the seventh, the fight had settled into a predictable pattern, with Luevano's speed and boxing skills controlling the action, as Concepcion couldn't catch his elusive rival with anything significant. Then, following a round in which Concepcion was more competitive, he was in the middle of a minor rally when the bell rang.

With the crowd roaring, perhaps Concepcion, 29-2 (17), didn't hear the bell, and referee Jay Nady (USA) was certainly slow getting between them. But regardless of any extenuating circumstances, there was no question that the thunderous right that floored Luevano, 37-1-1 (15), came well after the bell.

Trainer Freddie Roach went ballistic when Nady disqualified his man, but soon calmed down and admitted that it was an illegal punch, but insisted that Concepcion had not fouled on purpose.

All three American judges—Steve Morrow, C.J. Ross, and Glenn Trowbridge—had it 67-66 for Luevano after seven completed rounds, while THE RING had it much wider at 69-64 in the winner's favor.

Television: **Pay-Per-View**
Promoter: **Top Rank**
(8-15-09)

Raul Garcia W 12 Sammy Gutierrez

Los Cabos, Mexico: While the handful of boxing fans hardcore enough to care about the strawweight division clamor for a unification fight between unbeaten titlists "Rayito" Garcia and Roman Gonzalez, the reality is that Garcia has already found a worthy rival in Mexican countryman Gutierrez. The pair fought to a 12-round draw in June 2006, Garcia edged the June '07 rematch via one-point split decision, and when they fought a third time at the Auditorio Unidad Deportiva, the verdict was initially announced as a split draw before a math error was discovered and the result changed to a majority decision for Garcia.

This was the first time they battled for a major alphabet title, as Garcia won the IBF 105-pound belt from Florante Condes in June of 2008. "Guty" represented his fourth defense—and by far his toughest yet. Not surprisingly given their history, it was a back-and-forth, closely contested fight all the way. The 23-year-old Gutierrez, 105, Puebla, Mexico, seemed to have a slight edge through the first six rounds, while southpaw Garcia, 105, La Paz, Mexico, came on a bit stronger in the second half of the fight.

At the end of 12, judge Chris Flores (USA) had it a 114-114 draw, while Ray Corona (USA) saw Garcia a clear 116-112 winner. The card of judge Alfredo Polanco (Mexico) was originally read by ring announcer Jimmy Lennon Jr. as 117-115 for Gutierrez, but that was the result of someone's inexplicably poor addition skills. The 115 points for Garcia was correct, but the 117 for Gutierrez was amended to 113, making Garcia a winner after the TV broadcast had ended with viewers believing they'd seen a draw. The referee was Earl Morton (USA).

Looks to us like Garcia, 27-0-1 (16), and Gutierrez, 21-5-2 (12), ought to share the ring one more time (at least) to bring some clarity to the rivalry.

Television: **Azteca America**
Promoters: **Promotora Eco Servicios, Promociones Zanfer**
(8-22-09)

Juan Urango KO 11 Randall Bailey

Hollywood, Florida: When two punchers collide, it's usually a case of "may the best chin win." Though comebacking veteran Bailey is one of the purest knockout artists in the sport of boxing and holds a slight one-punch power edge over the heavy-handed Urango, Bailey doesn't take a punch nearly as well as the Colombian does, and that was the difference in a four-knockdown battle at the Seminole Hard Rock Casino that capped off the 2009 ESPN2 *Friday Night Fights* season.

Bailey, 139½, Miami, Florida, had won 11 out of his 12 most recent fights to earn a crack at the IBF junior welterweight title held by Urango, 139, Hollywood, Florida, via Monteria, Colombia. Urango, meanwhile, had lost his previous fight, but it was at welterweight against unbeaten Andre Berto and the "Iron Twin" had given a fair accounting of himself in defeat. As was the case in Urango's only other loss, against Ricky Hatton, Berto used a good deal of clinching to negate Urango's attack, an indication of how respected his strength is and how intimidating his pressure-based offense can be.

After a feeling-out first round, his come-forward pressure and some solid bodyshots won the second round for the 28-year-old Urango. Bailey, 34, got the point back in the third

PHOTO BY JAVIEL CENTENO/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Urango comes off the floor to stop Bailey

with some bodypunching of his own and a clean right hand to the chin. Rounds four and five, however, belonged to Urango, who was banging the body and moving Bailey to the ropes, while "The Knockout King's" work rate dipped and he seemed to be waiting—a little too patiently—for an opening to land his right hand. In general, through five rounds, what looked on paper like a can't-miss slugfest was shaping up as a disappointing fight where the styles simply weren't meshing.

Everything changed in the sixth, however, when a dull bout was suddenly infused with drama. From out of nowhere, one minute into the round, Bailey struck with the right hand shot he had been looking for. It was a short punch that landed hard on Urango's right cheekbone, cutting him and dropping him flat on his back. When Bailey lands like that, most opponents don't get up, but the sturdy-chinned Urango somehow pulled himself up at Florida referee Tommy Kimmons' count of nine. From there, Urango showed exceptional recuperative powers. Bailey moved in for the knockout, but it was Urango who landed the next significant punch, a left to the body that made an off-balance Bailey's glove touch the canvas, though Kimmons missed it and didn't rule a knockdown. They slugged it out the rest of the round, Bailey landing several more heavy right hands, and Urango taking them all without showing any ill effects.

By the seventh, Urango was plowing forward again as if nothing had happened, and he won the eighth with a right hand to the body that froze Bailey momentarily. In the ninth, Urango took charge for good. Bailey was experiencing some swelling around the left eye, and early in the round, a counter left by Urango—which didn't look especially hard—sent the older man to the canvas. He barely beat the count, getting up on wobbly pins at 9½, and it wasn't long before a right uppercut/left hook combo put him down again for a count of seven with more than half the round still to go. But Bailey survived the rest of the round by holding whenever possible.

Bailey hit the deck again in the 10th after receiving a left-right combination and then a right to the ribs. He got up at the count of eight, but spent the final minute of the round stumbling all over the ring, looking like he would need a miracle to last the final two rounds. Bailey, 39-7 (35), slipped to the canvas twice in round 11, his legs simply unable to hold him up, and his corner wisely waved the white towel at 1:51 of the round.

"I had to get up off the canvas, that was one of the hardest punches I ever felt," Urango, 22-2-1 (17), said of the sixth-round knockdown he suffered. "But he had to go through me too."

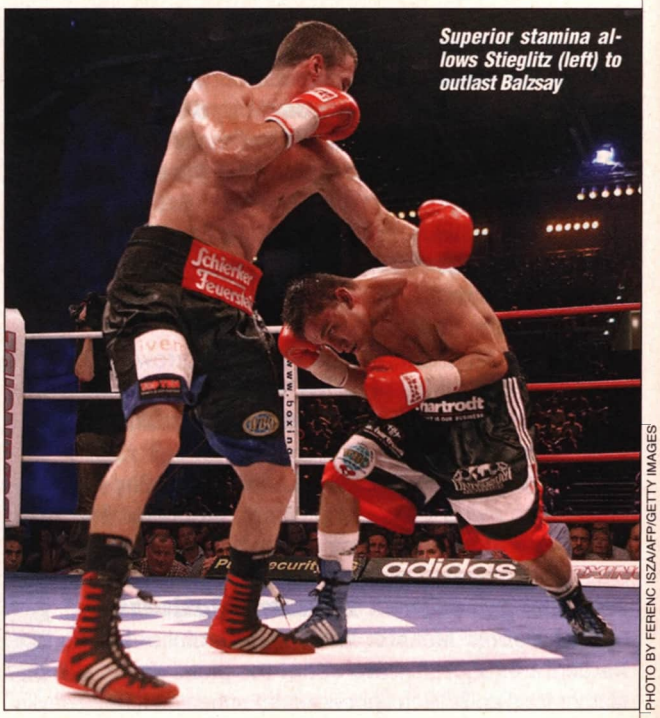
Promoters: **Seminole Warriors Boxing Promotions, DiBella Entertainment**

(8-28-09)

Robert Stieglitz KO II Karoly Balzsay

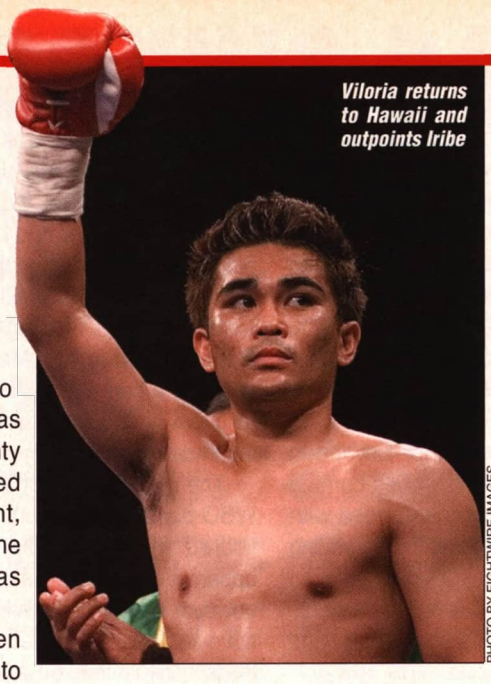
Budapest, Hungary: In a dramatic, bruising battle for the WBO super middleweight title, Stieglitz, 167, Magdeburg, Germany, via Yeysk, Russia, rallied in the second half of the bout after being outboxed in the first six rounds to stop Balzsay, 166¾, Hamburg, Germany, via Kecskemet, Hungary. Balzsay's corner pulled him out just after the bell rang for the 11th round following the sustained punishment inflicted on him in the ninth and 10th rounds of a compelling, ultimately shocking fight at the SYMA Sport and Leisure Centre.

Balzsay, who boxed at the Olympic Games in Sydney and Athens, was unbeaten and he impressed in his title-winning bout against fellow Russian Dennis Inkin in January. Fast and accurate combination punching and solid punching power were features of his performance, but Stieglitz, 36-2 (22), possessed the more solid punch and his resilience and patience proved to be key factors. Although Stieglitz had lost inside three rounds in a vacant title bout against Colombian Alejandro Berrio in 2007 and in eight rounds in an eliminator against California-based Mexican Librado Andrade in 2008, he never gave up on himself and his perseverance was rewarded.



Superior stamina allows Stieglitz (left) to outlast Balzsay

PHOTO BY FERENC ISZA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Viloria returns to Hawaii and outpoints Iribe

PHOTO BY FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Stieglitz was competitive from the outset, but Balzsay was sharper. His straight left and right hook proved productive weapons in the first round, and a left uppercut sliced through Stieglitz' guard in the second. When Stieglitz hit back with a strong, straight right hand to the chin, it was a taste of things to come, but for the most part he was being outboxed. He blocked plenty of Balzsay's punches and landed solidly with his jab, straight right, and hard blows to the body, but the southpaw titleholder's output was more productive.

But Stieglitz was never shaken and this gave him the confidence to increase his workload in the seventh as his right hand forced its way through to Balzsay's chin several times. By the eighth round, Balzsay's mouth was open and the snap was ebbing away from his punches. He was still countering well, but Stieglitz walked through his shots, determined to tag his rival with his own heavier artillery. A clash of heads in the ninth round inflicted a nasty cut over Balzsay's right eye, near the bridge of the nose. American referee Joe Cortez called the ringside physician to inspect it and, although Balzsay was allowed to continue, he fell apart quickly. A hard left hook hurt the defending titlist and, although he fought back, Stieglitz continued his assault until he floored his foe with a barrage of blows to the head. Cortez ruled it a slip, but the change in fortune was ominous.

Balszay had almost nothing left, and Stieglitz piled on the pressure in the 10th. All Balzsay could do to counter was throw desperate but ineffective flurries, while Stieglitz removed the last of his resistance with a series of powerful blows to the head and body. Balzsay slumped on his stool at the end of the round and his experienced trainer, Fritz Sdunek, signaled to referee Cortez that he was pulling his man out as the bell rang for the penultimate round.

"Maybe I threw too many punches in the first six or seven rounds and the high pace caused my decline," reflected Balzsay, 21-1 (15). "I felt during the preparation that it was a little bit too much for me, it began to be too monotonous and this high pace was typical of my whole year too, for it was my third title bout in 10 months and I hadn't had enough time to relax. I've been too strict and came close to the weight limit too early, but I'll come back from this, I'm sure."

Promoter: **Universum-Box**
(8-22-09)
Brian Doogan

Brian Viloria W 12 Jesus Iribe

Honolulu, Hawaii: In the first major title fight in the state of Hawaii since 1976, IBF light flyweight beltholder Viloria gave the fans at the Blaisdell Center just what they wanted to see, an enjoyable action fight and a victory for "The Hawaiian Punch." Mexican tough guy Iribe appeared much bigger than Viloria (Viloria guessed afterward that the challenger weighed 125 pounds in the ring), but the local favorite had far superior skills and won a unanimous decision in his first defense since upsetting Ulises Solis for the belt in June.

2000 U.S. Olympian Viloria, 107½, Waipahu, Hawaii, took charge with his jab and his faster hands right from the start, and his cause was aided when Iribe, 108, Culiacan, Mexico, broke his right hand in the second round. But Iribe never stopped throwing punches and never stopped looking to turn it into a slugfest. At times, Viloria obliged, and at times he just outboxed the bigger man intelligently.

Iribe enjoyed a good third round, landing a few clean headshots, but most rounds were controlled by the titlist, who landed a combination in the sixth that sent the Mexican reeling into the ropes. In an action-packed 10th round, Iribe scored with a heavy left to the body, but the 28-year-old Viloria answered with a left hook that bloodied his foe's nose. The 12th round was probably the best of the fight, as both men let loose and traded their best punches in the middle of the ring. Again, Iribe got in an effective hook to the body, but Viloria again responded with a combination upstairs that delighted his fans.

"Great fight," Viloria said afterward. "I hope the crowd enjoyed that."

The three Hawaii-based judges, Hubert Minn, Omar Sellers, and Pat Brown, all saw the fight in favor of Viloria, by respective scores of 118-110, 117-111, and 117-112. The referee was Alan Huggins (USA).

Iribe, 15-6-5 (9), said he believed he could have won if not for the broken hand and requested a rematch, saying he'd be willing to do it in Hawaii again. However, Viloria, 26-2 (15) with 2 no-contests, is angling for a much bigger fight with RING champion Ivan Calderon.

Promoter: **Tom Moffatt**
(8-29-09)

Marco Huck W 12 Victor Ramirez

Halle, Germany: In his second attempt to secure an alphabet title, Huck, 198½, Bielefeld, Germany, via Ugao, Serbia, utilized his superior boxing skills to outmaneuver Ramirez, 198¾, Buenos Aires, Argentina, winning the WBO cruiserweight belt at Gerry Weber Stadium. It was Ramirez' first defense after beating Ukraine's Ali Ismailov for the vacant title in May.

Virtually unknown outside of Argentina until his stunning defeat of Uzbekistan's former world amateur champion, Alexander Alexeev, in an interim title fight in January, Ramirez'

progress was established on his physical strength and aggression. Huck had been outboxed in his previous title tilt against Philadelphia's Steve Cunningham in December 2007, but his skills were much superior to the level of Ramirez' and, physically, he was more than able to handle the Argentine's crude, bull-like rushes. His defeat by Cunningham, he had insisted, was a valuable lesson in which he spent an inordinate amount of energy attempting to take out the American, who picked him off with jabs and combinations and completely bossed the action. Against Ramirez, 15-2 (12), Huck was the boss and he made this apparent from the early stages.

With seemingly minimum effort, the former European champion was able to evade most of the punches coming his way over the early rounds. His own shots landed with authority and his jab made its way regularly into the defending titleholder's face. Frustrated, Ramirez resorted to bullying tactics, but these were easily repelled by the confident Huck. The Serb hit strongly to the body and jabbed some more, and Ramirez had no answer.

But the 25-year-old nicknamed "El Tyson del Abasto" (Abasto being the market area of Buenos Aires) fought back hard in the middle rounds, finally getting through to Huck's head and body with some heavy hooks. Huck, 26-1 (20), was under pressure and a lesser fighter might have succumbed to the resurgent Ramirez. Huck, however, maintained his composure and concentration, and responded with an emphatic assault of his own over the final rounds to ensure the victory.

Judges Carlos Colon (Puerto Rico) and Duane Ford (USA) both scored 116-111 for Huck, while Noel Monnet (France) had it 115-112. THE RING scored 116-112 for Huck. The referee was Mark Nelson (USA).

Promoter: **Sauerland Event**
(8-29-09)
Brian Doogan

PHOTO BY TIMM SCHAMBERGER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Huck celebrates win over Ramirez

Fernando Montiel Tech. Draw 3
Alejandro Valdez

Tepic, Mexico: As highly regarded as three-time WBO beltholder Montiel is, inconsistency has plagued his sometimes-brilliant career, and he was far from his peak form against 5-1 underdog Valdez on the undercard of Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.-Jason LeHoullier at El Palenque de la Feria. In what was expected to be something of a tuneup for a November fight with Eric Morel underneath Manny Pacquiao-Miguel Cotto, Montiel suffered a bad cut, tasted the canvas, at one point thought he'd lost by TKO, and ultimately escaped with a controversial technical draw.

The over-the-weight bout started well enough for "interim" WBO bantam titlist Montiel, 119, Los Mochis, Mexico, as he floored Valdez, 119, Ciudad Obregon, Mexico, with a hook-uppercut combination in the opening round. Later in the round, however, a right jab from 5'8½" southpaw Valdez opened a bad cut over "Cochulito's" left eye. Unfortunately, confusion would follow because referee Jesus Salcedo (Mexico) never indicated whether a butt or a punch caused the cut.

In the second, Valdez did even more damage, dropping the 30-year-old Montiel with an uppercut. After Montiel got up, ref Salcedo didn't give Valdez a chance to follow up, instead walking Montiel over to the doctor to have his nasty cut checked. The 25-year-old lefty Valdez proceeded to dominate round three, frustrating Montiel with his long jab and pounding him with punches he couldn't see coming.

Between rounds, the boxing world bore witness to yet another case of a fighter opting for an early ending in hopes of escaping with a technical draw or no-contest, similar to the controversial endings to the abbreviated Timothy Bradley-Nate Campbell and Robert Guerrero-Daud Yordan fights. Montiel's left eye was swelling rapidly and his corner claimed that he couldn't continue, believing that a butt caused the cut and the fight would be a technical draw according to the rules in Mexico. At first, it was announced as such, but moments later, it was changed to a TKO win for Valdez. A couple of hours after the fight, though, the commission re-reversed the result, going back to the technical draw ruling.

Despite not getting credit for the win, it was a take-notice performance from Valdez, 21-3-3 (15), who was stopped in the second round by the excellent beltholder Hozumi Hasegawa in '08 but holds solid wins over Heriberto Ruiz, Adonis Rivas, and Mauricio Pastrana. Meanwhile, Montiel, 39-2-2 (29), has likely lost out on the fight against Morel because of his eye injury.

Television: **Pay-Per-View**
Promoters: **Top Rank, Promociones Zanfer**
(9-12-09) ■

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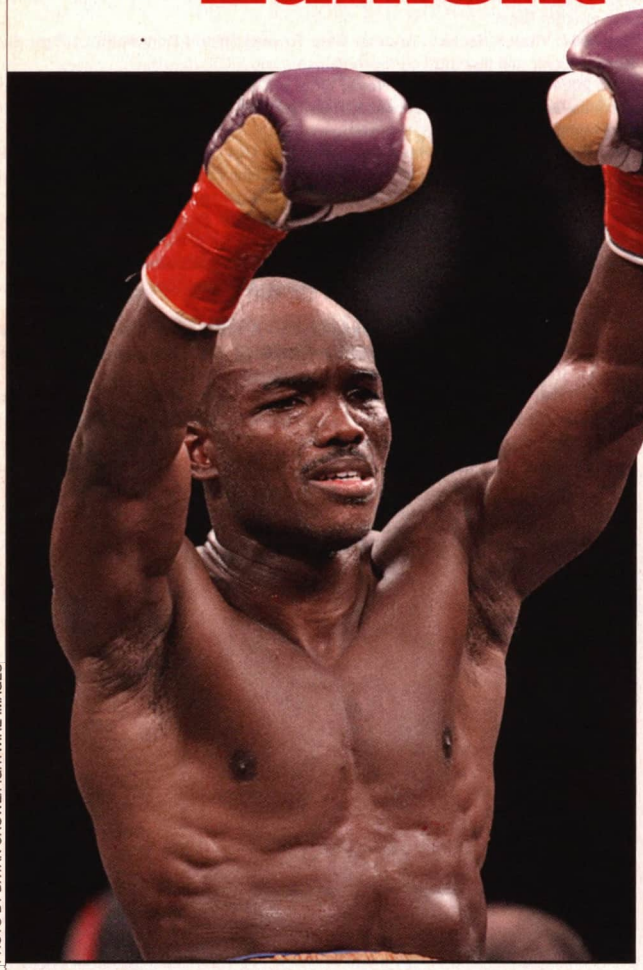
WBO Junior Welterweight Title

Timothy Bradley

Main Event 12 Rounds

Lamont Peterson



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It's hard to go wrong matching a pair of young, undefeated boxers, both of whom possess a strong amateur background and admirable technical skills. And that's exactly what boxing fans will get when Timothy Bradley puts his alphabet title on the line for the fourth time, against Lamont Peterson, December 5 on Showtime.

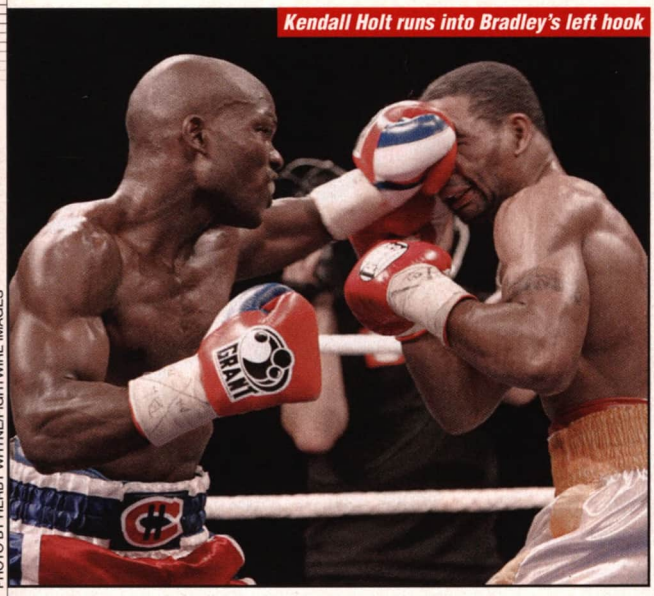
While the match is not expected to be a give-and-take slugfest, it should be a brisk display of skill and will, as both competitors attempt to raise their profiles with an impressive victory.

There's a lot at stake, as the 140-pound division remains one of the most talent-filled, and the winner will be in line for even more lucrative fights in the future.

Timothy Bradley

Lamont Peterson

Record and World Rating



Kendall Holt runs into Bradley's left hook

PHOTO BY HERBY WHYNE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

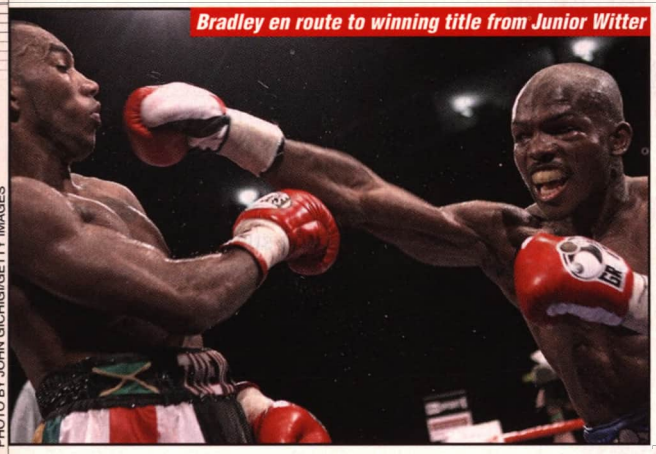
Is 24-0 with 11 knockouts and 1 no-contest ... Won two National championships during a 128-20 amateur career ... Turned pro in August 2004 ... Won minor alphabet belt in ninth pro start ... Captured WBC 140-pound title in May 2008 ... Won WBO junior welter belt in April '09, which prompted the WBC to stripped him of its trinket ... Is ranked number one at junior welterweight by THE RING.

Peterson's left gets around Antonio Mesquita's guard

PHOTO BY SCOTT FOSTER/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Is 27-0 with 13 knockouts ... Went 148-20 during a stellar amateur career that included winning the 2001 National Golden Gloves championship ... Made pro debut in September 2004 ... Won regional alphabet belt in February 2006 and another in September '07 ... Won the ridiculous WBO "interim" title in April '09, making him Bradley's mandatory challenger ... Is unrated by THE RING.

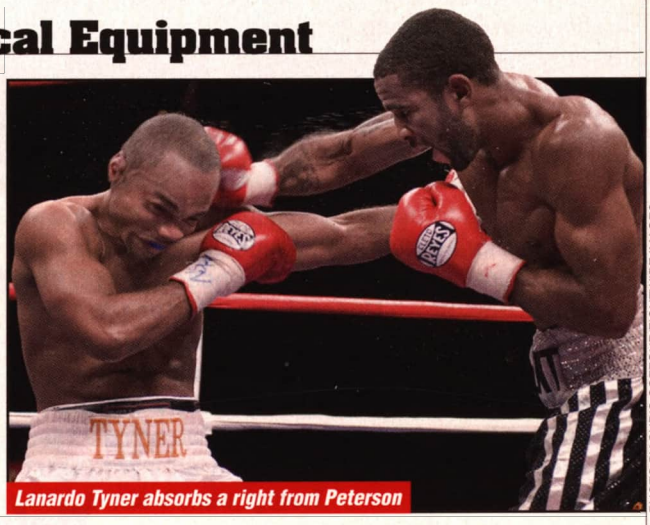
Age and Physical Equipment



Bradley en route to winning title from Junior Witter

PHOTO BY JOHN GICHIGI/GETTY IMAGES

Is 26 years old ... Stands 5'6" with a 69-inch reach ... Outstanding hand and foot speed ... First-class reflexes ... bodybuilder-type physique ... Top-notch condition has served him well, going the distance in three 12-round bouts ... Physically strong, but not a heavy puncher.



Lanardo Tyner absorbs a right from Peterson

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Is 25 years old ... Stands 5'9" with a 74-inch reach ... Quick hands ... Excellent lateral movement ... Lanky physique, complete with long arms ... Always in tremendous condition ... Sturdy chin ... Has fought as a junior welter throughout pro career ... Slightly better puncher than stats indicate.

Timothy Bradley

Lamont Peterson

Best Weapons

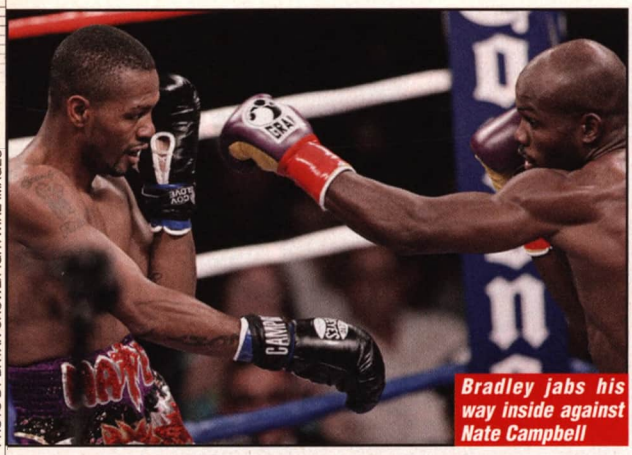


PHOTO BY BRYAN CROWE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Bradley jabs his way inside against Nate Campbell

Sharp combination punching, featuring a snappy right hand, compliments aggressive but savvy boxing skills ... Accurate, rapid-fire jab ... Effective body-puncher.

PHOTO BY SCOTT FOSTER/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Peterson snaps a jab into Frankie Santos' face

Left jab paves the way to most victories and sets up other punches ... Uses uppercut well on the inside ... Fierce body attack, but has tendency to shoeshine at time ... decent right hand.

Previous Fight

Bout with former lightweight titlist Nate Campbell on August 1, which was originally ruled a TKO, was changed to a no-contest by the California State Athletic Commission after video showed that the cut over Campbell's left eye was caused by an accidental head-butt in the third round ... Prior to the clash of heads, Bradley was controlling the fight.

Traveled to Bayamon, Puerto Rico, to fight previously undefeated Frenchman Willy Blain on April 25 ... Was winning a competitive fight when Blain injured his right hand in the sixth round ... Ref consulted doctor, who allowed the fight to continue ... Fight stopped due to the injury at 1:11 mark of the seventh ... Peterson ahead on all three scorecards at the time he was awarded TKO.

Quality of Opposition

Stepped up to better opposition in 2007, following string of victories over fair-to-middling foes ... Topped Miguel Vazquez (W 10), who bounced back to beat Breidis Prescott ... Upset Junior Witter (W 12) in London to win alphabet belt ... Has tallied three successful defenses against solid opposition, beating Edner Cherry (W 12) and Kendall Holt (W 12), prior to no-contest against Campbell.

Blue-chip prospect didn't fight anybody with a winning record until his 12th pro bout ... Gradually improved his level of opposition as career advanced, but still gets occasion easy mark such as worn-out John Brown (KO 8) and oft-beaten Rogelio Castaneda (KO 9) ... Best foes to date have been Antonio Mesquita (KO 1), Lanardo Tyner (W 10), and Blain (KO 7).

Defense

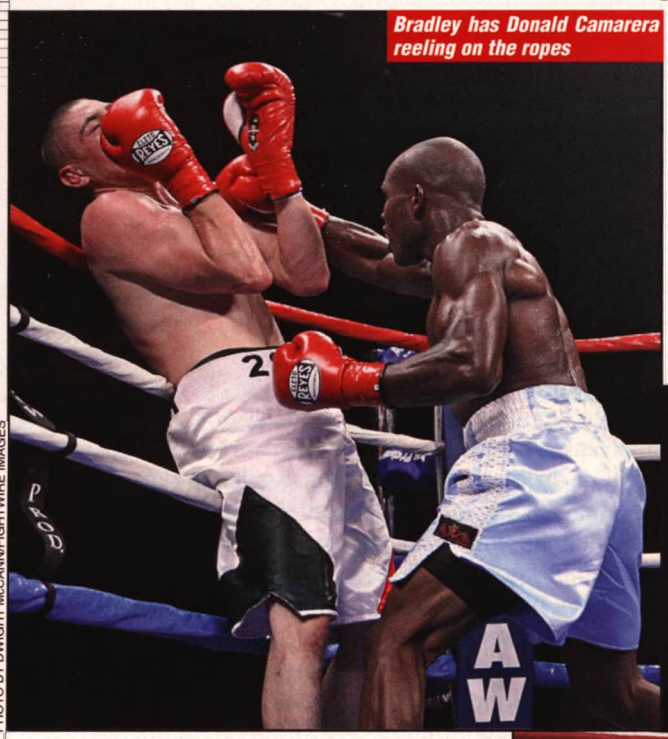
Upper-body movement, bob-and-weave approach, and quick reflexes make him a difficult target, even as he is attacking ... Blocks punches and covers up well behind his gloves ... Vulnerable to counters when exchanging.

Height, reach, and lateral movement keeps him at a safe distance ... Still gets tagged when he throws offense into top gear ... Not as much of a safety-first type as he was coming out of the amateurs ... Chin has held up well so far.

Timothy Bradley

Lamont Peterson

Style



Bradley has Donald Camarera reeling on the ropes

PHOTO BY DWIGHT McCANN/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Slowly morphing from defensive specialist to boxer-puncher, willing to turn aggressive ... Relies on jab and body-punching to wear down opponents ... standing his ground more than in the past.

Short bundle of energy, who has proved he can handle taller adversaries ... Sets a busy pace ... Applies pressure ... Makes up for lack of kayo power with volume ... Solid boxing skills.

Peterson rocks Juaquin Gallardo with an uppercut

PHOTO BY SCOTT FOSTER/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

The Questions

Can he deal with Peterson's height, reach, and footwork? How will he handle Peterson's hand speed? Will he score his first kayo since April 2007? Can he turn in a signature performance that might lead to a match with 140-pound champion Manny Pacquiao?

Can he live up to his potential or will he freeze in his first attempt to win a title? Can he avoid Bradley's bobbing head, which led to fight-ending cut against Campbell? Can he utilize his body attack against a crouching target? Will he be hampered by lack of experience against world-class fighter?

The Outcome

A fast-paced contest, featuring more boxing than slugging, could possibly turn into a snoozer. But Bradley, eager to impress, will try to make sure that won't be the case by pressing the action. The titleholder's experience against world-class opposition will be the difference, allowing him to pull ahead the second half of the fight and win a competitive decision.

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(Continued from Page 26)

itself. To be able to sleep in the same cabin that he slept in, to be able to train in the same facility that he trained in, it's huge for me."

Honest almost to a fault, Kauffman bears his emotional scabs as proudly as his several tattoos. He's a sensitive young fighter who admits getting upset over negative comments posted about him on Internet forums. Between training sessions at Deer Lake, he plays with his new pit bull, runs from yellow jackets, and talks about missing his longtime girlfriend and two sons.

"Sometimes, I get very cautious on who I get close to because I'm afraid to lose people," Kauffman said. "I have a very big heart, and I'm an emotional guy."

At age nine, he had that heart broken when his primary mother figure, grandmother Marie Kauffman, passed away. Travis struggled to cope. He went into a medically diagnosed depression, and began using drugs and alcohol. His grades plummeted as he began rebelling against his father and running with the wrong crowd at school.

In January 2000, Kauffman spent 20 days in a juvenile detention center for taking cash from a register at the supermarket where he worked. Later that year, he spent eight days in a county prison after being booked for armed robbery (the charges were later dismissed).

Shortly after being released, Kauffman was jumped by several kids at Reading High School after an argument over drugs. He estimates it was anywhere from four to 10 guys. "As many fists as I saw coming at me, it felt like 10 people," Kauffman said. "I got beat up. Bad. I called my dad crying. I didn't want to go back to school because my face was swelled up. It was all over something stupid."

Hoping for payback (which never really came), he began training seriously with his father. Marshall Kauffman had been a promising amateur back in the early-80s before doing nine months in prison for selling marijuana. Several years later, Marshall saw pugilistic potential in his troubled son, and he didn't want to see it flushed away.

"I saw mental toughness, more than anything," the elder Kauffman said. "That's something that you can't teach. You can teach somebody how to throw a jab, a right hand, but the mental toughness you can't teach. A lot of guys lack that."

Meanwhile, in the absence of his grandmother, Travis was working to build a relationship with his estranged mother, Charlene Zeiber. The two were just beginning to grow close—Zeiber even attended some of her son's early amateur bouts—when Zeiber died suddenly of a brain aneurysm in June 2001.

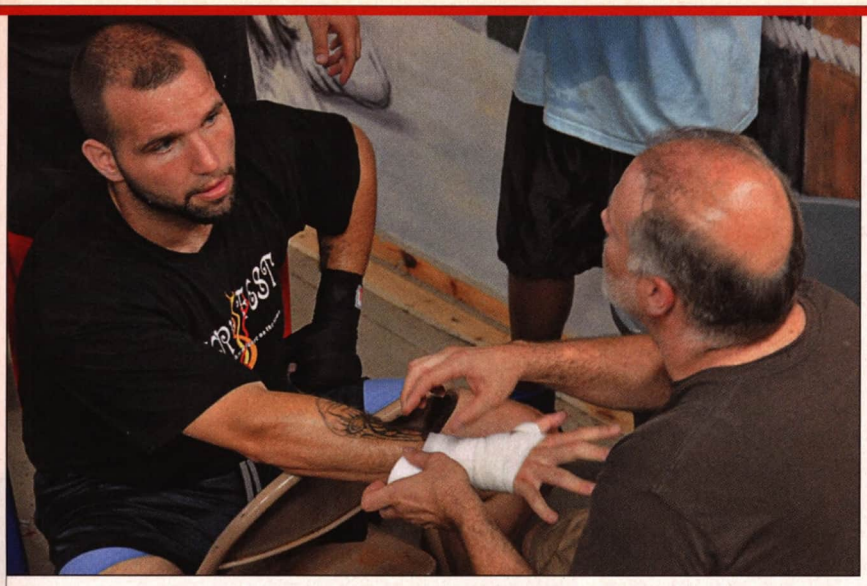
This time, Kauffman simply pressed on. He used the nicotine patch to quit smoking in 2002, and began focusing on the 2004 Olympics. Kauffman fell short, but by the time he turned pro in January 2006, he was ranked first at super heavyweight by USA Boxing with gold medals at the 2004 PAL Nationals, 2005 Cheo Aponte Tournament, and 2005 U.S.-Azerbaijan Duals. His final amateur mark was 52-12.

"To this day, I've never dealt with my mom's death because I'm afraid to go through that depression that I went through with my grand-mom," said Kauffman, who has only visited his mother's grave twice.

Apparently, he still had issues. In March 2004, Kauffman was arrested for selling marijuana to undercover police officers in Reading. "I was a kid," he said. "If I could take all that back, I would. It was a dumb decision."

While those charges were still pending, Kauffman seemed to be straightening out when he was arrested in April 2005 for allegedly raping a 12-year-old girl. Kauffman, who was 19 at the time, maintained his innocence throughout (in Pennsylvania, rape charges are automatic if the complainant is less than 13, regardless of consent).

Still, Kauffman's pending legal issues helped convince him to forego a run at the 2008 Olympics and turn pro. He was 10-0 with seven knockouts by June 2007, when his attorney con-



Marshall Kauffman wraps Travis' hands for a workout at Muhammad Ali's old training camp in Deer Lake, Pennsylvania. Despite a series of personal problems, Travis has remained undefeated.

vinced him to accept a deal and plead guilty to the rape charges. He would have served five years in prison.

Free until sentencing, Kauffman fell into another depression, grew a Grizzly Adams-like beard and ballooned to 310 pounds. He was also shunned by a community that had showered him with freebies and adoration only months before.

"It was the worst part of my life," Kauffman said, "but I'm thankful for the people who stuck by my side. If it wasn't for them, I don't know where I'd be today."

In the end, Kauffman elected to go down swinging. Just before sentencing, he changed attorneys and pulled his guilty plea. In March 2008, a jury found Kauffman innocent of rape. He later received probation and a suspended sentence for the 2004 drug charges.

"I'm thankful," Kauffman said. "I feel I have a second opportunity at life."

Looking back, Kauffman views that ordeal as a turning point. After a 14-month layoff, he resumed his career in June 2008 with a one-round blowout of Octavius Smith. Kauffman checked in at 243 pounds for that fight. When he made his TV debut last December, in a two-round stoppage of Malachy Farrell on *ShoBox*, Kauffman was just 221.

"I didn't have that hunger that I have now," Kauffman said. "I have something inside of me now that makes me want to get up and run on my own.

Since being acquitted, Kauffman has stopped all eight of his opponents within three rounds. That includes a former prospect in Farrell, and three veteran trialhorses in Cliff Couser (one round), Livin Castillo (three), and Ken Murphy (two).

"If I'm going to lose a fight, I'm either going to get the piss beat out of me or I'm going to get knocked out," said Kauffman, who took a standing-eight count in his pro debut and suffered a dubious knockdown against Farrell. "If I get knocked down, I'm going to be back up and we're going to fight."

In the seclusion of Deer Lake, he and his father recently spent an evening watching old tapes of Travis in the ring as a flabby 15-year-old. Watching himself labor through those amateur bouts, Travis marveled at Marshall's early faith in him.

"I said, 'What did you see in me? I looked terrible,' " Travis said. "I just knew I had heart; I would fight anybody. Boxing was something that kept me out of trouble."

Enough that it allowed him to grow up. ■

Don Stewart covers boxing for the Reading (Pennsylvania) Eagle and is a regular contributor to THE RING.

DON'T MISS WILLIAM DETTLOFF

EVERY MONDAY ... EXCLUSIVELY ON: ringtv.com

Always insightful and often provocative, William Dettloff, The Ring's senior writer, is the thinking-fans' columnist, a writer who never settles for the same old stale commentary you've already read a dozen times. For example, here's Dettloff's take on a handful of hot topics:

The effects of steroids: If steroids compelled men to kill their families, the terrible sound of James Toney, married father of six, slinging deviled eggs down his throat would right now be echoing throughout his otherwise silent, corpse-strewn house.

Post-fight interviews: If you too were wondering why Vic Darchinyan made no real sense five minutes after getting pancaked, consider that five minutes before, he'd gotten pancaked. Why are people always surprised when a fighter who's just suffered a concussion says nonsensical things?

The white stuff: If you've never seen (Alexander) Povetkin, picture mayonnaise in short pants and gloves. This guy is so white he makes Sultan Ibragimov look like Wesley Snipes.

Dettloff on ringtv.com ... The perfect way to answer the week's opening bell!

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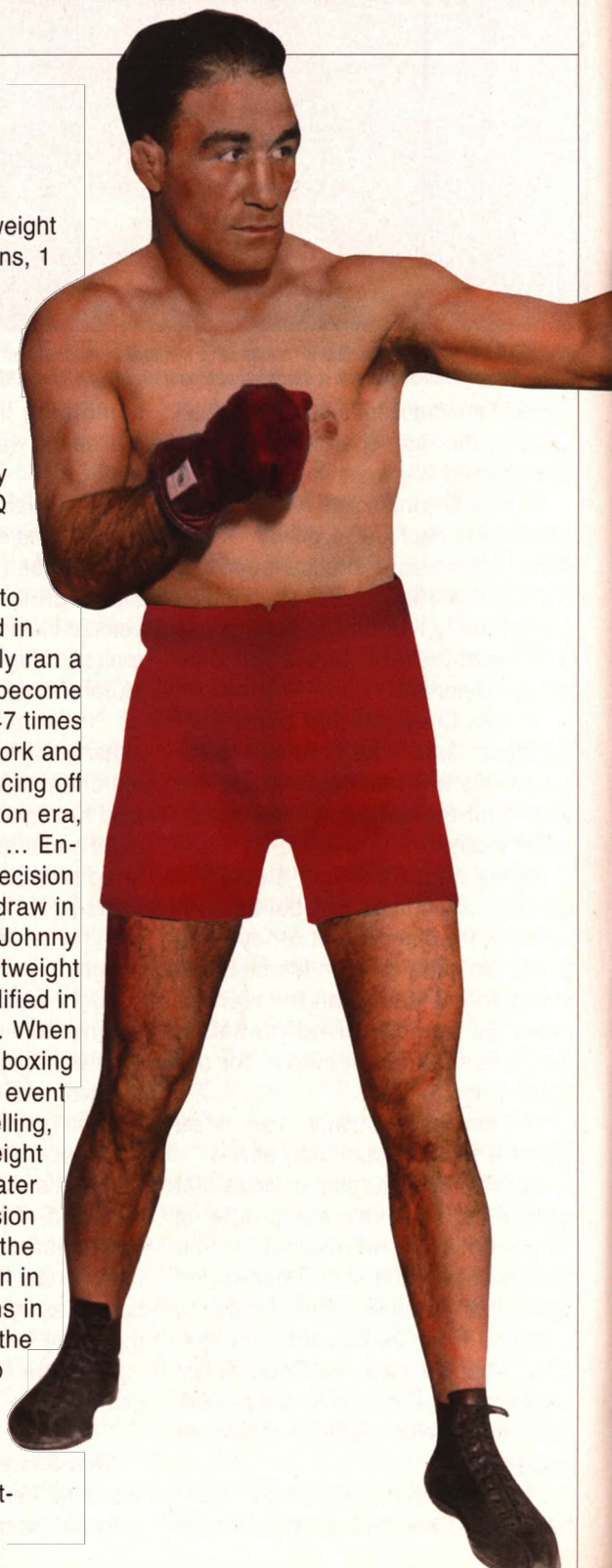
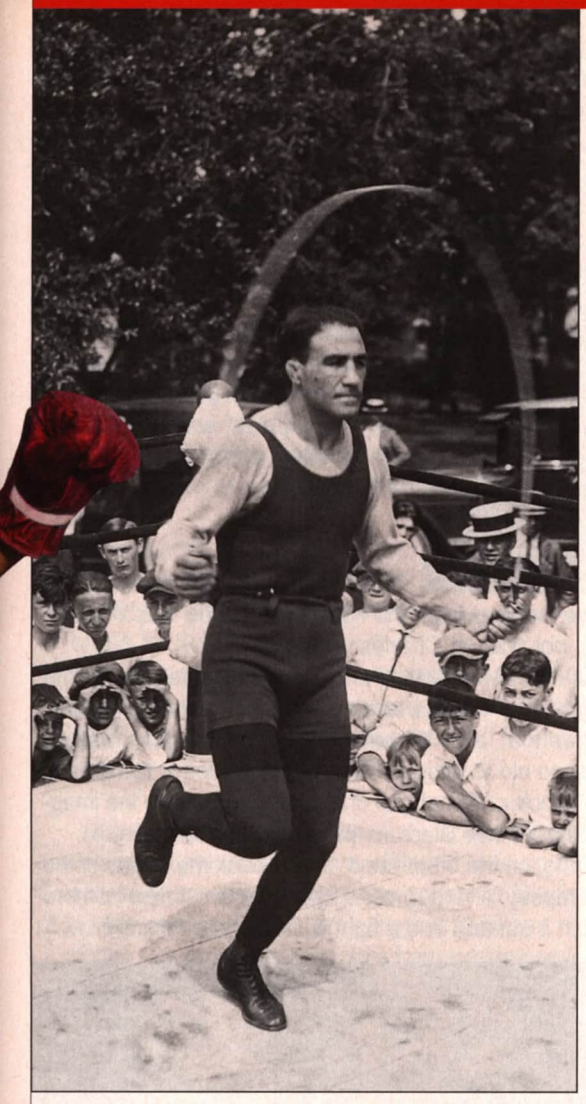
Hall of Fame Profile

THE RING features a thumbnail biography of a ring great who has received the ultimate honor: induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York

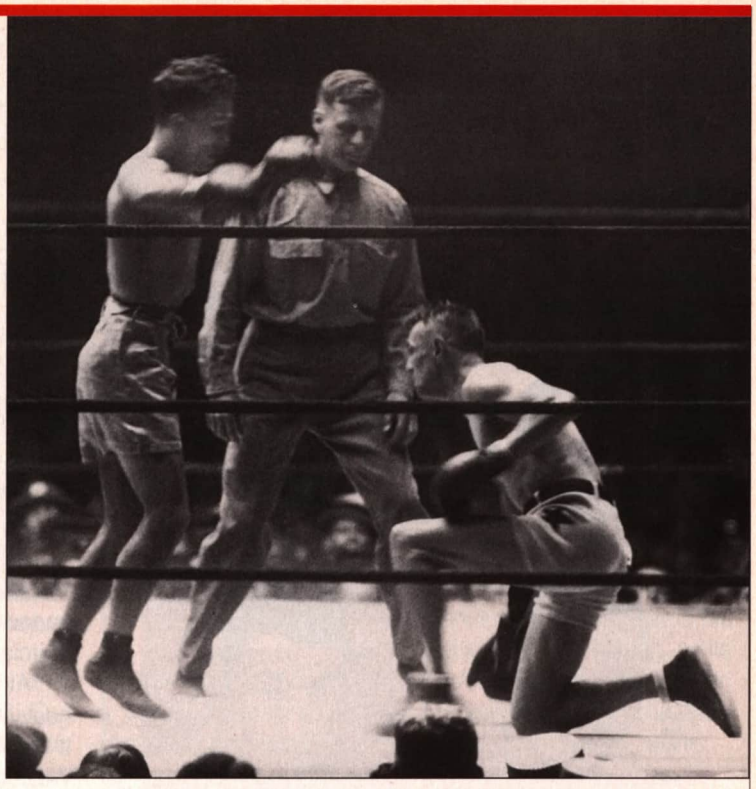
Johnny Dundee



Birthdate: November 22, 1893
Date Of Death: April 22, 1965
Birthplace: Sciacca, Sicily
Nickname: The Scotch Wop
Weight Classes: Featherweight, Junior Lightweight, Lightweight
Professional Record: 90-31-19 (22) with 194 no-decisions, 1 no-contest
Titles Held: Junior Lightweight (November 18, 1921-May 30, 1923; December 17, 1923-June 20, 1923), Featherweight (July 26, 1923-August 10, 1924)
Best Performances: Eugene Criqui (W 15), Johnny Kilbane (D 20), Mexican Joe Rivers (W 20), Charlie White (W 15), Eddie "Cannonball" Martin (W 10), Jimmy Goodrich (W 10), Rocky Kansas (D 12), Joe Welling (W 12), George Chaney (W 10, W DQ 5), Joe Tiplitz (W 10, W 12)
Year of IBHOF Induction: 1991
Background: Born Giuseppe Carrora in Italy, immigrated to the United States with his family while still an infant ... Raised in New York City's "Hell's Kitchen" neighborhood, where his family ran a fish market ... Turned pro on August 10, 1910, and went on to become one of the most prolific boxers of all-time, fighting an amazing 47 times in 1911 alone ... A tricky, unorthodox boxer with dazzling footwork and a great chin, especially adept at launching punches while bouncing off the ropes ... Fought much of his career during the no-decision era, when it was illegal to render a decision in many jurisdictions ... Engaged legendary lightweight champion Benny Leonard in 8 no-decision bouts, gaining the "newspaper" decision in two of them and a draw in a third ... Boxed a 20-round draw with featherweight champion Johnny Kilbane, in 1913, in first attempt to win a title ... Won junior lightweight title in November 1921 when George "KO" Chaney was disqualified in the fifth round ... Became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1919 ... When New York State passed the Walker Law in 1920, which legalized boxing and allowed for decision verdicts, Dundee fought the first main event under the new regulations, losing a 15-round decision to Joe Welling, September 17, at Madison Square Garden ... Lost junior lightweight title to Jack Bernstein in May '23, but less than two months later won the world featherweight championship with a 15-round decision over Eugene Criqui in front of approximately 40,000 fans at the Polo Grounds ... Regained junior lightweight title from Bernstein in December '23 in what is considered one of the worse decisions in boxing history. *The New York Times* gave Dundee only three of the 15 rounds, with two even and 10 for loser Bernstein ... Gave up featherweight title in August '24 because he could no longer make the weight ... Lost junior lightweight title to Steve "Kid" Sullivan in June '24 ... Although past his peak, Dundee fought on until December 1932 ... Lost most of his ring earnings investing in a stable of racehorses.



Dundee skips ropes at his Orange, New Jersey, training camp, getting ready for his bout against reigning featherweight champion Eugene Criqui in 1923.

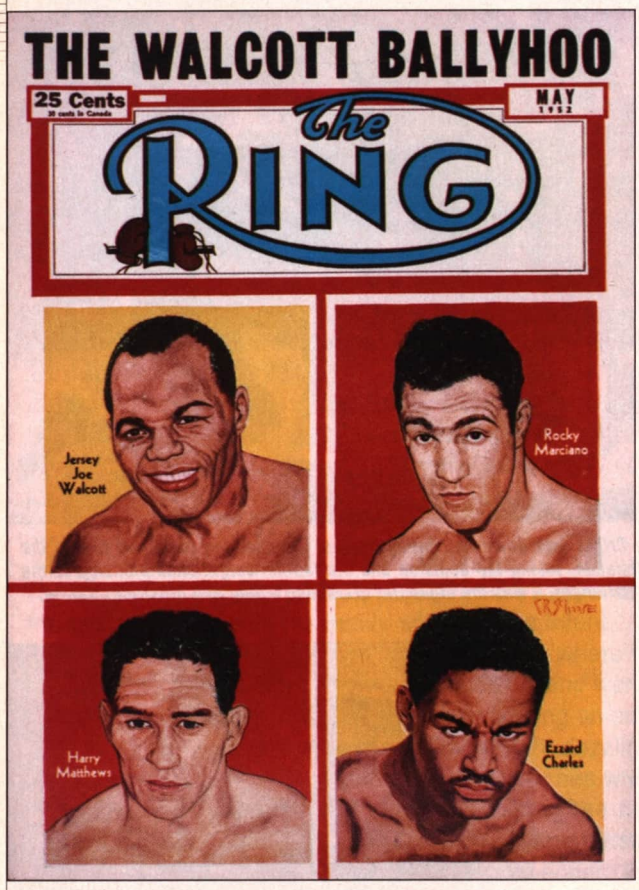


Frenchman Criqui was down four times against Dundee, but managed to last the 15-round distance, losing the decision and the featherweight championship to the American challenger. It was the highpoint of Dundee's long and illustrious career.

Two of a kind: Former featherweight champ Dundee visits reigning 126-pound king Sandy Saddler in 1950.

Dundee and his wife in Paris, in 1924, all decked out in their finery and ready for a stroll through the Champs Elysees.

May 1952



COVER STORY: "The Walcott Ballyhoo" headline is accompanied by illustrations of the four leading heavyweights of the day, champion Joe Walcott and contenders Rocky Marciano, Harry Matthews, and Ezzard Charles. But the big story behind the headline is the Department of Justice's charge of anti-trust being brought against the International Boxing Club, which would eventually bring down the most powerful promotional company in the world.

Walcott had spoken out against the IBC and claimed he did not want to honor the rematch clause to fight Charles, who he had knocked out to win the title in July 1951. But it was generally accepted that "Jersey Joe" would cave and take the fight, which he did, winning a 15-round decision over Charles on June 5 in Philadelphia.

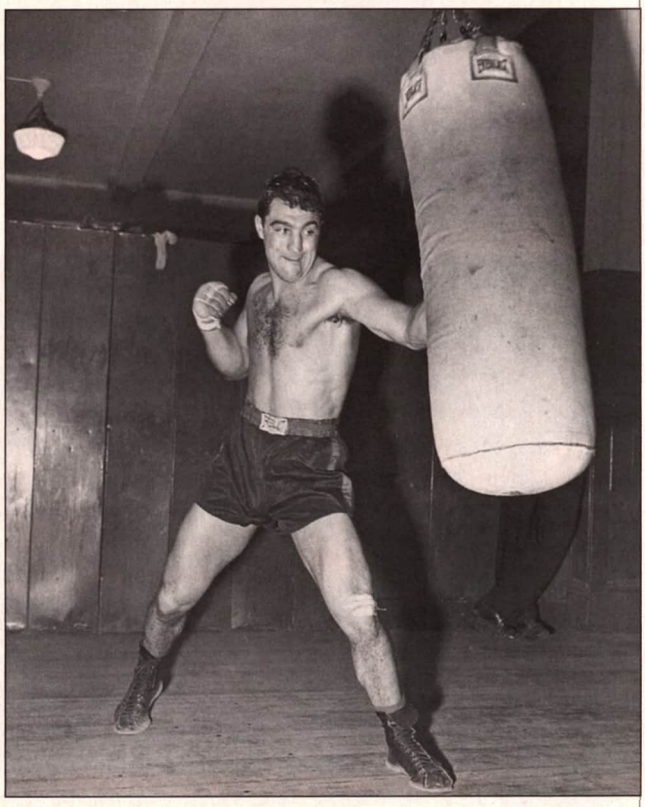
"Boxing Marking Time As Rocky 'Awaits Big Shot" by Daniel M. Daniel spoke to the undeniable fact that what the fight fans wanted was Walcott-Marciano, *not* Walcott-Charles.

"At this time, Marciano is not merely a contender for the heavyweight title," writes Daniel. "He is the big hope of boxing. It is still true that, as the heavyweights go, so goes boxing. Walcott is too old to intrigue New York, Charles is too greatly lacking in knockout threat and dramatic quality to fire the imagination of the Yankee Stadium and Polo Grounds clientele.

"Marciano, on the other hand, brings back memories of the young Dempsey, a target, certainly, but a two-fisted hombre able to dish it out and end a fight with one pile-driving blow."

World Champions

(for period ended March 18, 1952)
Heavyweight: Jersey Joe Walcott
Light Heavyweight: Joey Maxim
Middleweight: Ray Robinson
Welterweight: Kid Gavilan
Lightweight: James Carter
Featherweight: Sandy Saddler
Bantamweight: Vic Toweel
Flyweight: Dado Marino

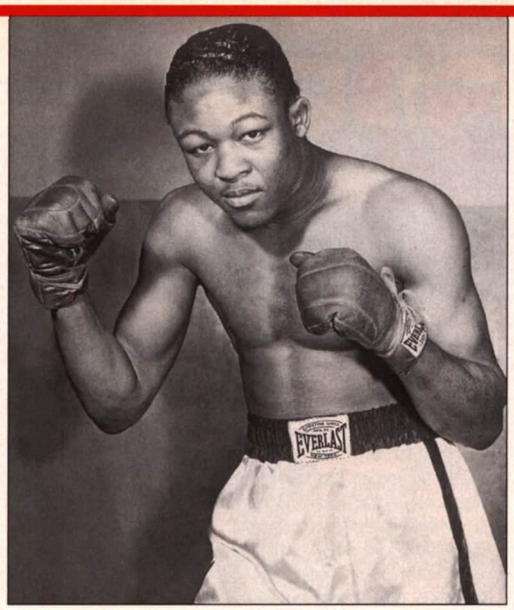


Marciano would be world champ before the year was over

"Nat Fleischer Says" is a bit of a surprise, as the editor appears to side with the International Boxing Club in the upcoming court battle.

"It may not be legal so far as the government is concerned for the International Boxing Club to sign challengers to a contract calling for a return engagement in the event he wins from a champion, but that's how boxing has been carried on for many years. Mike Jacobs started the ball rolling in that direction and Jim Norris has followed in his footsteps."

As things turned out, U.S. District Court Judge Sylvester Ryan ruled that the IBC, which promoted 47 of the 51 title bouts held in the U.S. between 1947 and '55, was indeed a monopoly and ordered it dissolved. The case was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, where the justices confirmed the lower courts decision by a 7-2 margin in 1959.



Gavilan never ducked anyone

"They Barred Nobody" is Ted Carroll's theme piece about fighters who were willing to take on all comers. Carroll mentions welterweight champion Kid Gavilan as one of the few current fighters following the tradition.

"Since Gavilan got to New York from Havana several years ago, promoters have made a practice of digging up the toughest nuts they can find for the Cuban," wrote Carroll. "He always accommodates them."

Foremost among the other fighters mentioned is Harry Greb, of whom Carroll writes: "Of all boxers, past and present, probably no one was as disdainful of all opposition as was the late Harry Greb … For years he averaged close to one fight a week, campaigning from Coast to Coast against opponents of all sizes, styles, and descriptions."

Joe Louis, Maxie Rosenbloom, Johnny Dundee, Tommy Farr, and Fritzie Zivik also got high marks from Carroll for taking on anybody, anytime.

"Timely Chatter In Great Britain" by John S. Sharpe featured Randy Turpin's first start since losing the world middleweight title to Ray Robinson. "(Turpin) didn't look like the fighter he is in the 10-rounder with Alex Buxton, long idleness dulled his timing … referee Jack Hart worked harder than either of the two contestants. Buxton called it quits in the seventh round, owing to a badly cut eyebrow."

"Jabs From St. Louis And Vicinity" by Bus Burke took a dim view of Archie Moore's 10-round decision over Jimmy Slade: "There was no doubt about Moore winning, but it was a dull, listless fight to watch."

Maybe Moore was just saving himself for bigger things down the road. Four fights later, he won the light heavyweight title via 15-round decision over Joey Maxim.

"Covering Philadelphia And Eastern Penna" by Archie Pirolli highlights a pair of highly successful promotions by Herman Taylor. Rocky Marciano attracted 9,243 fans to Convention Hall to watch his sixth-round kayo of Lee Savold, while 8,566 turned up at the Philadelphia Arena to see Gil Turner win a 10-round decision over Del Flannigan. It was Turner's 29th-straight victory as a pro.

"In Syracuse Ring" local correspondent Billy Shaw reports on the ninth-round kayo of local hero Joey DeJohn at the hands of Frenchman Robert Villemain. The show set a new indoor record for the city, when 9,048 customers crammed the War Memorial Auditorium. DeJohn almost put Villemain away in the fourth, but the Frenchman survived, gradually gained the upper hand, and put DeJohn down for the 10-count in the ninth. ■

Villemain stops DeJohn in front of record crowd

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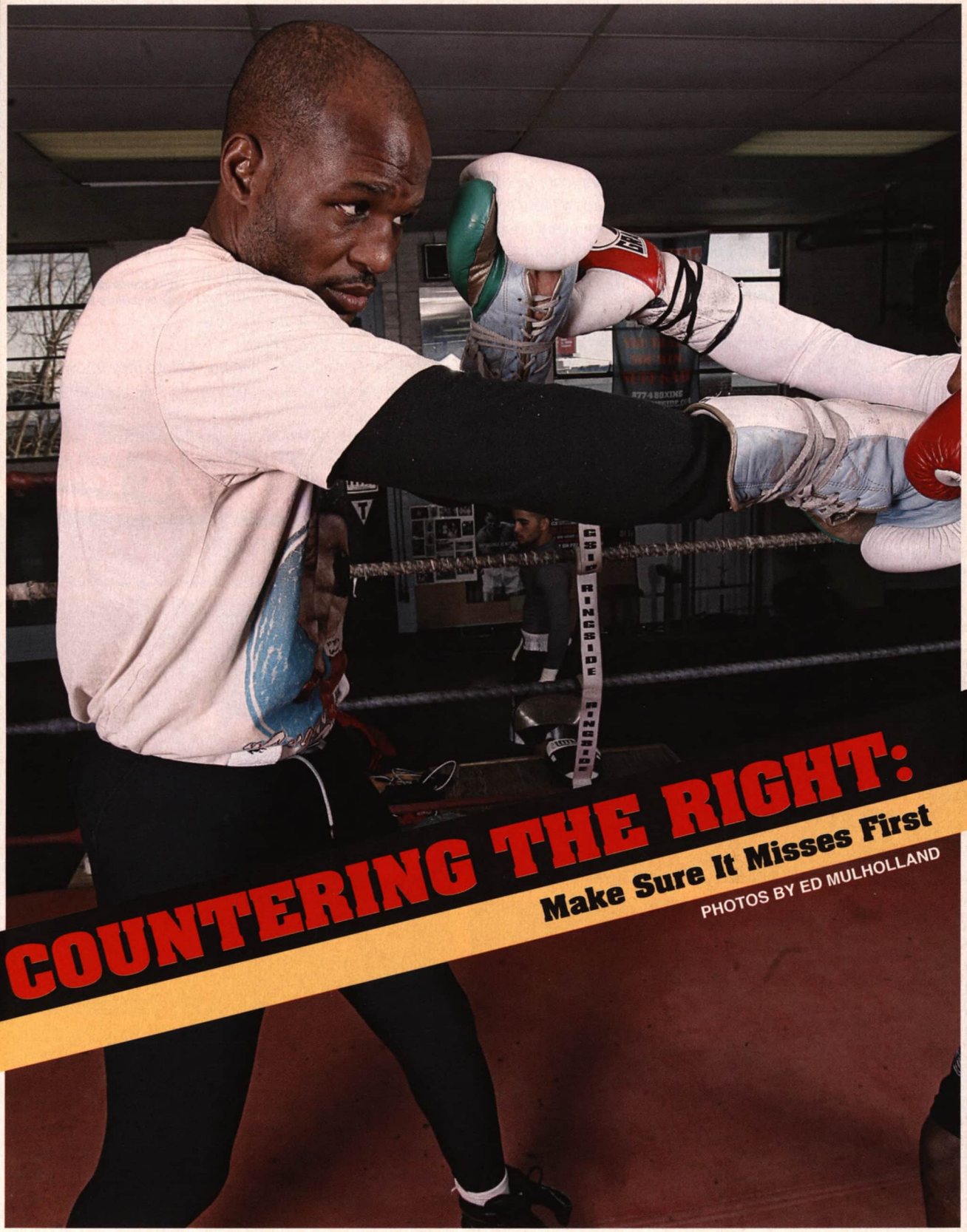
Perfect Execution

Boxing Lessons From A Living Legend

By Bernard Hopkins



COUNTERING THE RIGHT:

Make Sure It Misses First

PHOTOS BY ED MULHOLLAND

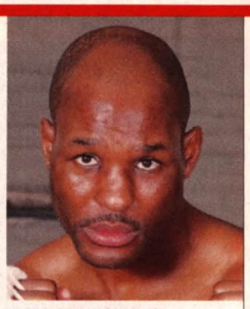
We talked before about countering your opponent's jab and how important it is to let your opponent know that whenever he tries to land a punch, the chance is good that he will get hit in return. The better he believes that chance is, the less likely he is to throw the punch. It's important to counter his jab because that sets up everything else for him. It's just as important to counter his straight right, because that's probably his power punch. And it's the same principle. If you counter his power punches every time he throws them, he's going to learn not to throw them. You're conditioning his mind. You're in charge.

But countering the straight right is different than countering the jab in an important way. When you get hit with the jab you'll be okay as long as you know there's probably something coming behind it and you adjust. You're not going to slip or duck or block every one. Some are going to get through. It's okay. It's an important punch, but it's not going to knock you out.

But with the right, you want to make sure the punch misses first. You have to see that punch from beginning to end before you counter it. You've heard that old saying that says the punch that hurts you is the one you don't see coming. That's true. You've got to see it coming. And you should be able to—the right hand has to travel much farther than the jab does because it's coming across the body.

Also, a lot of guys, especially less experienced ones, telegraph the right hand. They show it to you before they throw it. Your job is to see how your opponent telegraphs it so you so can see it coming and anticipate it. If you can do that, you can counter it. Just make sure it misses first.

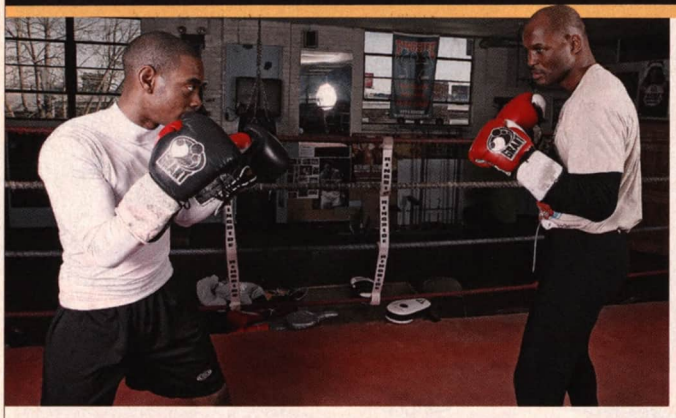
You've got to make him miss that right hand by doing all the things we've always talked about, and then throwing your counter. Remember, every time your opponent punches he creates an opening for you to land punches. If you're smart you take advantage of them. Here's how to take advantage when he throws the right.

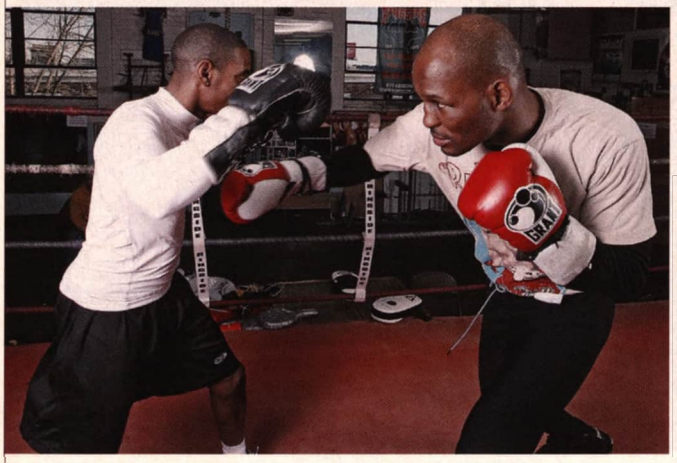


BERNARD HOPKINS *Is the former middleweight and light heavyweight champion of the world.*

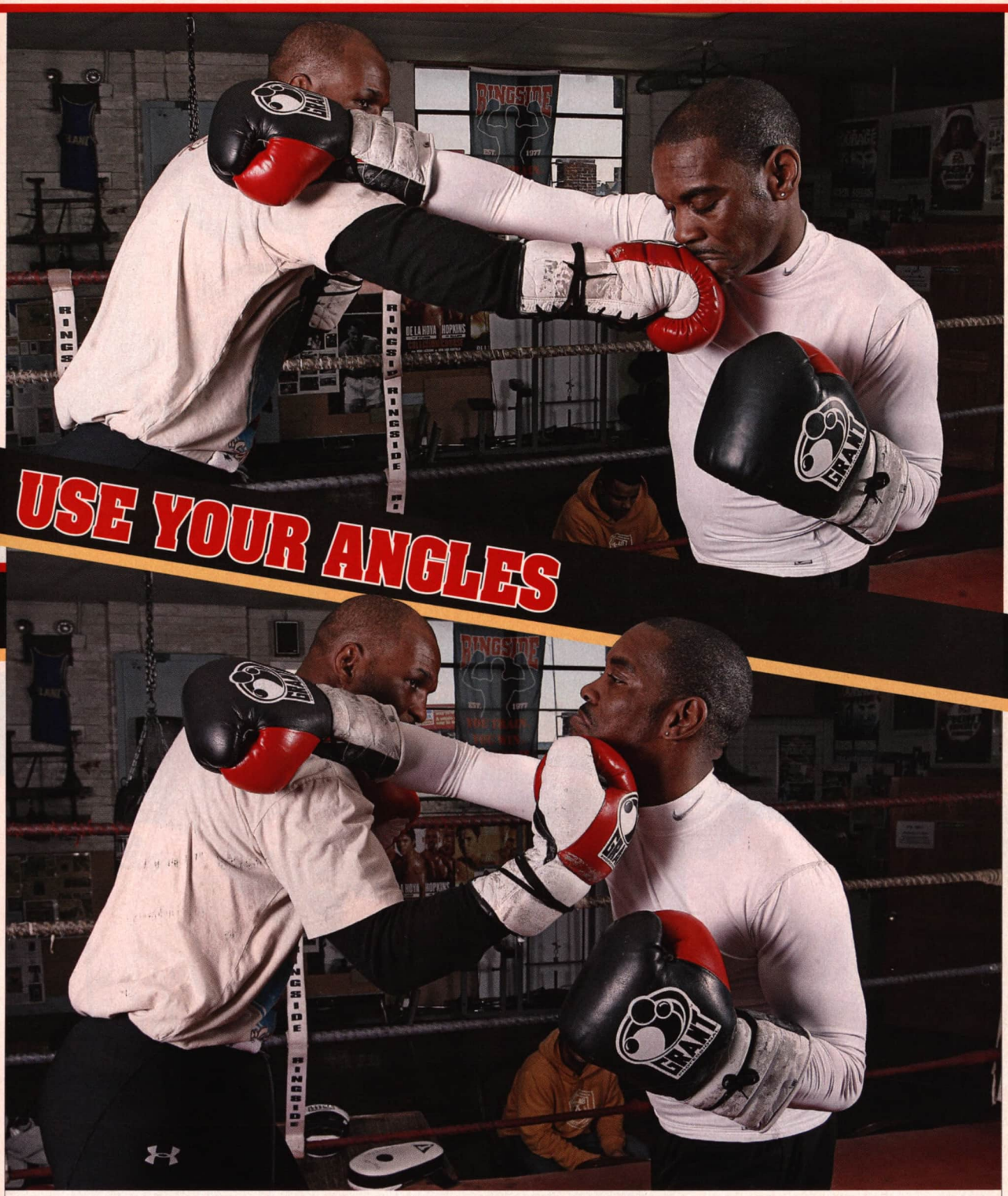
(All photos taken at Andy Carr's Gym in Upper Darby, PA)

STRAIGHT RIGHT TO THE BODY





AS ALWAYS, GET YOUR RANGE RIGHT AND REMEMBER THE BASICS: HANDS UP, CHIN DOWN, ELBOWS IN, ON BALANCE, AND EYES STRAIGHT AHEAD. Watch for his right. When it's on its way, shift your weight to your left leg, move your upper body to your left, and aim your own right to his upper rib cage. As his right goes over your right shoulder, you're driving your right home. Finish up with a hook to get back on balance.

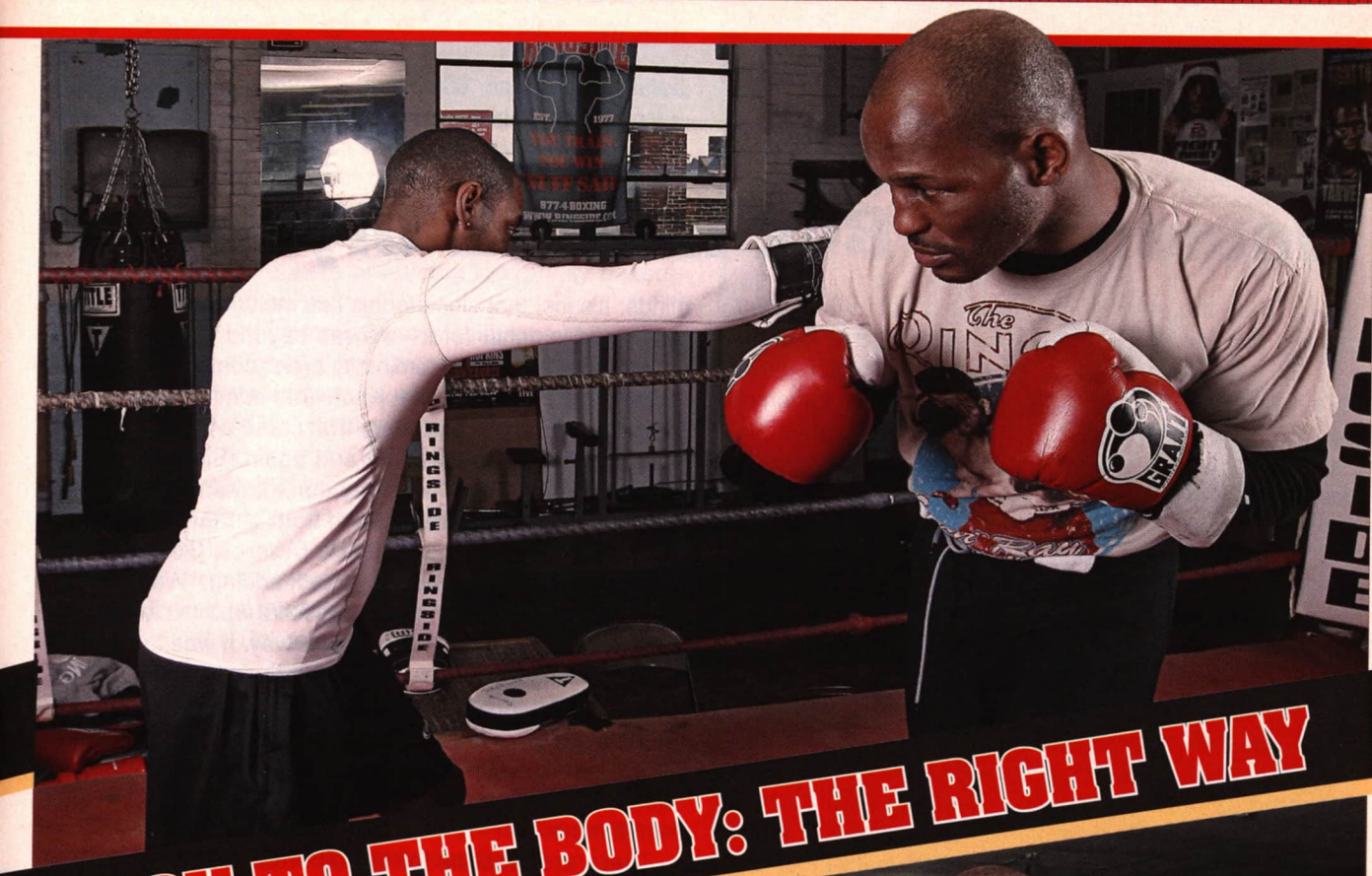


USE YOUR ANGLES

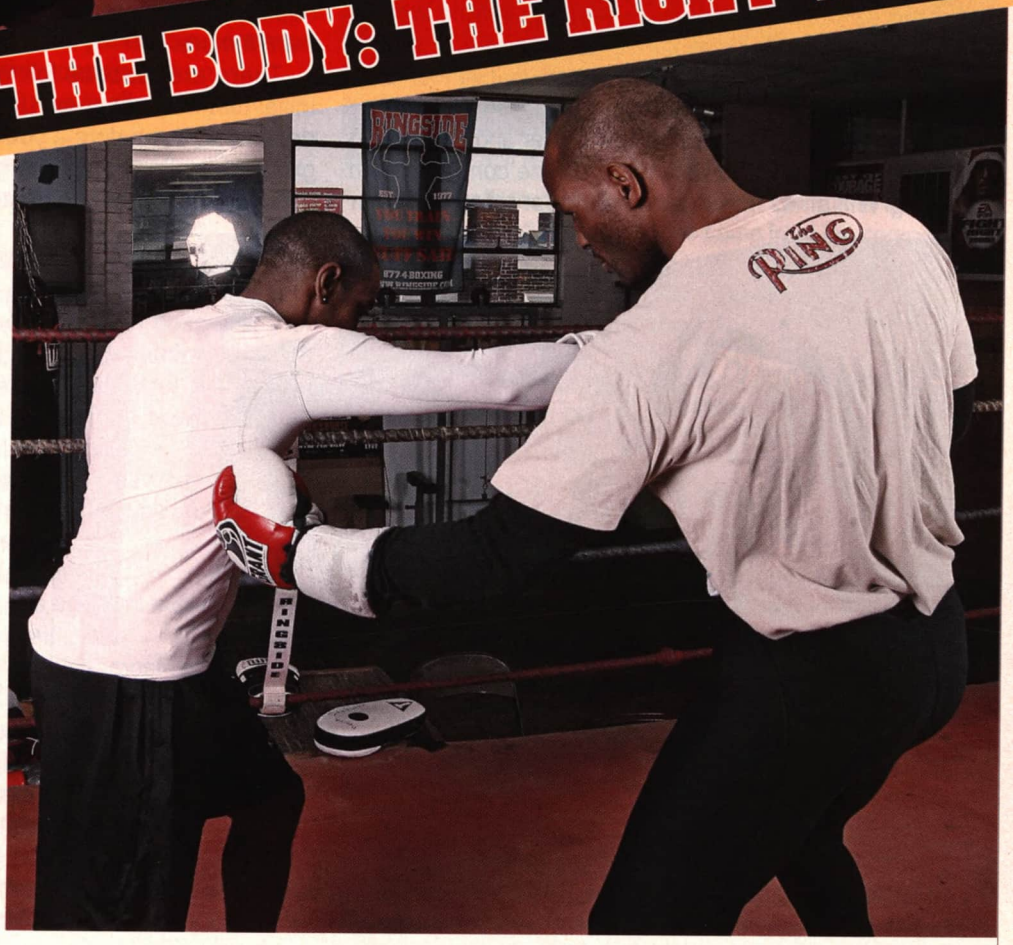
WE KEEP TALKING ABOUT USING ANGLES AND POSITIONING TO MAKE IT SO THAT YOU CAN HIT YOUR OPPONENT AND HE CAN'T HIT YOU. This is a good example. If I'm standing right in front of Danny Davis when he throws his right, I can't make these counters. But because I've moved to my left, I can tag him and he can't do anything about it. Again, finish up the combination with the left hook.

HOOK TO THE BODY: THE WRONG WAY

THE WORST THING YOU CAN DO WHEN YOU TRY TO COUNTER THE RIGHT HAND IS THROW THE COUNTER FROM TOO FAR AWAY, like I'm doing here with this attempted hook to the body. You've got to make your move first—to the inside, or underneath—and *then* throw the counter. Not both at the same time. That's what I do here and I pay the price.



HOOK TO THE BODY: THE RIGHT WAY



LOOK HOW MUCH CLOSER I AM TO DANNY IN THIS SHOT. I've made my move to the side, the punch is already past me, and now I'm close enough so that my hook can reach its target. Perfect execution.

By Michael Rivest

Women Will Box In 2012 Olympics

When the International Olympic Committee (IOC) met in Berlin, Germany, on August 13, it wasn't to debate some arcane, bureaucratic point; it was to take a step forward for equality, and for boxing. Women will be in the ring at the 2012 London Games, and while their participation has been limited to three weight categories compared to the men's 10, nobody's minimizing the significance of the moment.

"We're very excited," said Christy Halbert, boxing coach, author, sociologist, and the loudest American voice behind women's boxing. "The last time women boxers appeared in the Olympics was 1904 when it was a display event, so you could say women boxers have been training for about 105 years for the right to get back."

But not everybody's thrilled. The roots of bias go deep. Former British Olympic silver medalist Amir Khan summarized the sentiment of many in just three little words. "Women shouldn't fight," which is another way of saying women shouldn't act like men. But is that what women boxers are trying to do?

Nobody watches Serena Williams' power and aggression and thinks she's trying to be a man. On the contrary, when watching Williams, "men" is the farthest thing from our minds. It's just that since tennis has included women for so long—and is richer for it—we see beyond gender. On the courts, aggression and femininity aren't contradictions.

We should point out that Khan later admitted he'd never seen women box, a discovery that came as no surprise to Halbert: "I've found that time and again. Stereotypes are shelved when people find they can't square their beliefs with what they see playing out in front of them."

Veteran trainer Sam Colonna (Andrew Golota, Angel Manfredo, Angel Hernandez) agreed, adding, "We shouldn't come down too hard on Khan and folks who think like that. About 10 years ago, I felt the same way. It was the idea of women boxing that bothered me, not the real thing." Colonna now trains seven women, including Olympic hopeful, Kristy Gearhart.

"Women boxers listen better," he said, "They're more dedicated, more grateful, and more committed. They just want it more."

There are reasons for the difference. A young man's initial test may not come until the first time he walks into a right hand. But before a young woman even shows up at a gym, she's already been through an informal selection process that assesses the depth of her commitment.

PHOTO BY CHARLENE HELMUTH/BOXING RESOURCE CENTER

Halbert: Strong advocate for women's boxing

"There are many incentives for young men to get involved in boxing," Halbert said. "They typically have the support of their families and friends, and have the promise of countless social rewards." One of those rewards is, of course, girls. It doesn't exactly hurt for a man to be known as a boxer. This isn't so for women, where it's still perceived as unattractive and, well, weird. So if, despite these disincentives, a woman finds her way to a gym, she's already proven something.

"The women I train aren't just young women," said Colonna, "they're the young women who really want it—for themselves and nobody else."

The IOC's decision will begin a process that will change a lot of minds, and not only in the minds of

fans. London 2012 will provide aspiring young women something they now lack—a huge external motivation: now they, too, can become Olympians.

Women's boxing made a try in 2008, only to be rejected by the IOC on grounds of safety, something that was actually more reasonable than it sounds at first glance.

There was a lack of what the IOC called "universality." As is the case with any developing sport, skill level disparities existed across the various national and international regions. Some were producing top quality boxers, while others lagged behind.

"The IOC was concerned about mismatches in the elimination process, a formula for injury to the less skilled boxers," said Amy Hannus, formally nationally ranked amateur boxer and current USA Boxing coach. "But we've come a long way in a short time and the IOC sees this."

But why did the IOC approve only three weight divisions?

"It's complicated," said Hannus, "If women were to have 10 weight divisions in 2012, same as the men, then boxing would have the most athletes in the Olympics." And, naturally, the elimination bouts would take longer than any other sport in the entire Games.

As it stands, the inclusion of women in 2012 will come at a cost to the young men—namely, the 106-pound weight division will be sacrificed to accommodate the female boxers, a move that greatly concerns Halbert.

"It's been hard enough to get to this point," she said. "The last thing we need is to have our arrival generate resentment from the men, who are our biggest supporters."

Despite the concerns, the IOC has finally allowed a foot in the door. And for those tempted to say it's a glass slipper, wait until they see these remarkable athletes. They are women and there's nothing breakable about them.

Louie Byrd: Looking to 2012

Denver, Colorado's Louie Byrd could have been angered by the IOC decision to introduce women's boxing at the 2012 London Games. Not that he has anything against women in the ring, mind you. His boxer sister is the one who got him started in the first place. He'd been a happy football player before that.

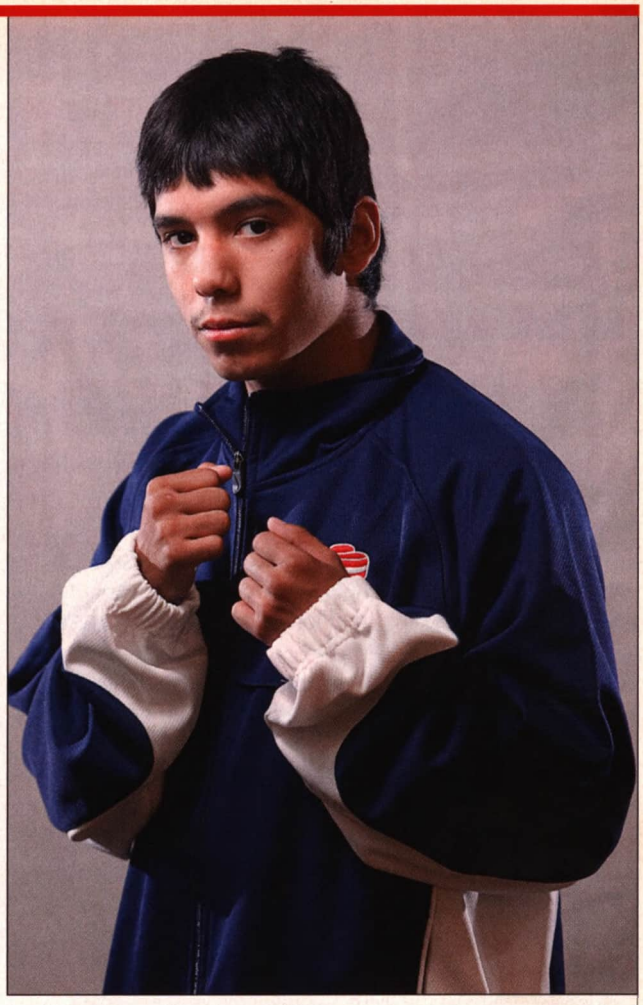
But in order to make room for the woman athletes, the men's team will be sacrificing their 106-pound weight division—the one Byrd always dominated.

So, is he angry? No, he's adaptable.

"My Dad saw this coming a while ago and moved me up to the 112-pound division," Byrd said.

Holder of six national championships, most recently the 2009 U.S. Nationals and the 2009 National Golden Gloves, Louie is on the fast track to Olympic stardom in 2012. But don't look for any prima donna attitude. Louie's just "Louie"—trained by his father in his own backyard garage.

His father, Jeff Byrd, is a self-taught coach who never fought a round in his life. They're just a part of the Backyard Brawler's Boxing Club, a collection of neighborhood kids who train with donated equipment.



Byrd: Adapting well to new weight class

But beneath that hometown exterior, Louie and Jeff are a formidable team. "What separates Louie from the competition is his heart," said his father. "He'll wear you down with it."

"Wear 'em down and break 'em down," Louie added. And that, whether it's in a backyard gym or on the world stage, is a winning plan all by itself. ■

Results

The gold medal winners at the 2009 AIBA World Boxing Championships in Milan, Italy:

Super Heavyweight: Roberto Cammarelle (Italy)
Heavyweight: Egor Mekhontsev (Russian Federation)
Light Heavyweight: Artur Beterbiev (Russian Federation)
Middleweight: Abbos Atoev (Uzbekistan)
Welterweight: Jack Culcay-Keth (Russian Federation)
Light Welterweight: Roniel Iglesias Sotolongo (Cuba)
Lightweight: Domenico Valentino (Italy)
Featherweight: Vasyl Lomachenko (Ukraine)
Bantamweight: Detelin Dalakliev (Bulgaria)
Flyweight: Arroyo McWilliams (Puerto Rico)
Light Flyweight: Serdamba Purevdorj (Mongolia)

By Margaret Goodman, M.D.

Head Case

In August, the Nevada State Athletic Commission repealed a 1972 rule that prevented any fighter who has ever sustained a cerebral hemorrhage (bleeding on the surface or inside the brain) from coming off suspension or competing. Now these individuals will be able to apply for a Nevada boxing license. The commission's Medical Advisory Board (MAB) will evaluate each case on an individual basis, request specialized medical testing, and forward a recommendation regarding licensure.

Why change this regulation now when cerebral hemorrhage remains the leading cause of death in boxers, and the NSAC has previously always erred on the side of caution?

THE RING tried to contact NSAC Executive Director Keith Kizer and Dr. Albert Capanna, their Medical Advisory Board (MAB) Chairman, but was unsuccessful. However, Kizer told ESPN.com following the hearing, "A lot of things have changed since 1972 in terms of medical testing. We have a better ability to scan and some scans didn't exist in 1972. The commission is not changing its view of these injuries, just changing so we can utilize modern medicine in making a determination."

Okay, so use "modern medicine" in evaluating boxers, but that still doesn't explain Nevada changing the rule now.

Edwin Valero suffered an epidural hemorrhage (life-threatening bleeding on the brain's surface) in a motorcycle accident in 2001. Valero underwent surgery to evacuate the hematoma, but a piece of his skull was never replaced, nor was he given prosthesis (metal plate). The New York State Athletic Commission discovered Valero's injury on a 2004 prefight MRI, after which he was placed on indefinite medical suspension.

Since then Valero has competed both outside and inside the U.S. without incident. However, he is an outstanding boxer, and to our knowledge has never been knocked out, nor has he sustained direct trauma to that portion of his brain. So, to me, the jury is still out.

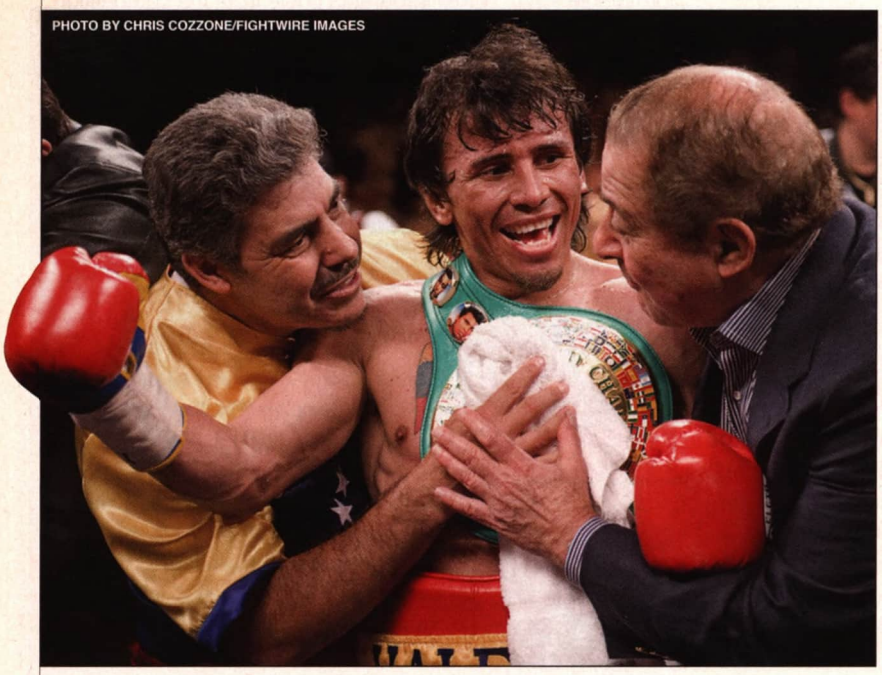
Top Rank, his Nevada-based promoter, now wants him to fight in Nevada. In fact, they are looking to place Valero on the November undercard of Manny Pacquiao-Miguel Cotto, pending resolution of his visa problems.

But the rule change is not just about Valero. There are plenty of other boxers who have had brain bleeding from boxing and will want to continue their career—some of who cannot get out of the way of punches as well as Valero.

As a neurologist who has practiced for more than 20 years, worked with thousands of boxers, and witnessed fighters dying from brain injuries, I have seen no medical advancements that will prove a fighter who has sustained bleeding on the brain's surface is not predisposed to another hemorrhage under similar circumstances. In fact, to the contrary, autopsies on boxers typical show each has had multiple areas of bleeding of different ages. In other words, besides the blood clot that killed them, they had bled before.

The commission's MAB has five conscientious members, including one who is a neurosurgeon. But every five years, the governor appoints others, perhaps of specialties and qualifications that don't understand the repercussions in re-licensing a boxer with a prior brain bleed. The old regulation was a safety net for all concerned. Once Valero is licensed, and I have little doubt he will get the green light, or the commission would not have changed their regulation, there will be much pressure to license other boxers who might be less talented.

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES



Trainer Robert Alcazar and promoter Bob Arum flank Valero

Furthermore, the commission has 15 ring physicians, most of who had no input into this decision, but all may have to bear liability should something happen to Valero or any other boxer with a similar medical history.

Pat Pannella, Executive Director for the Maryland State Athletic Commission, agrees that a boxer with a history of a serious head injury would warrant further medical evaluation by his commission.

"Just because a boxer suffered a head injury years ago and has competed on numerous occasions does not mean that the commission would summarily license the boxer in question," said Pannella. "What if the commissions which approved the boxer in the past to compete potentially made the wrong medical decision or what if the head injury that the boxer suffered years ago became further complicated due to a recent sparring session or recent bout?"

In situations where there are many medical experts, I believe their opinions matter. Perhaps they would have all been in agreement with the NSAC. However, organizations like the American Association of Professional Ringside Physicians (AAPRP) cannot even come close to deciding whether or not to allow boxers with a brain hemorrhage history to continue their careers. So, although Nevada's regulation change may be the right thing to do, the manner in which it was handled could be perceived as cavalier and dangerous. It places not only the fighters, but also the officials at increased risk.

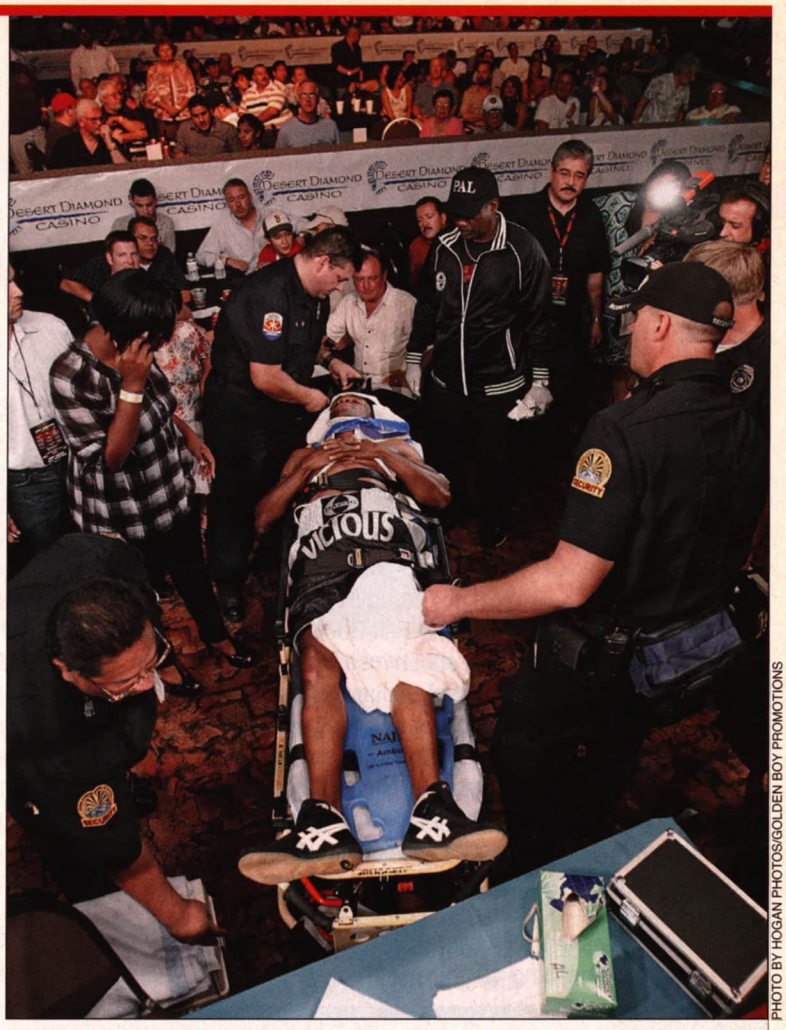


PHOTO BY HOGAN PHOTOS/GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS

Injured boxers can sue ringside physicians for malpractice

Speaking of Medical Malpractice ...

Medical malpractice is a fact of life for all physicians. It is even more of a risk for ringside doctors who have limited or no coverage to work boxing matches. Beyond ring tragedies, physicians have been sued for not allowing a boxer to compete.

"A number of doctors have left," said Dr. Michael Schwartz, AAPRP president. "We have tried to move forward to see if physicians can become agents of their commission." Like commissioners, they would be indemnified and protected by the state. Traditionally, this has not been allowed. In Nevada, all boxing officials are protected from liability except the physicians.

Many jurisdictions have boxers sign a waiver assuming the risk for a serious injury. But most malpractice lawyers will tell you this would not hold up in court as protection for the ring physician.

According to co-chair of the Association of Boxing Commission's legal committee, Bruce Spizler, "Malpractice on the part of a ring physician would be no different than malpractice on the part of any other physician."

The elements include a breach of the standard of care (the skill, knowledge and care usually possessed and exercised by the ring physician), a causal connection between the negligent conduct and the resulting injury, and actual loss or damage resulting from the physician's negligence.

On the other hand, boxing medicine is different.

Ring physicians have limited medical records on the fighters they oversee. And rarely do they really know what kinds of injuries a boxer sustained in the gym, let alone whether or not the fighter sought medical attention. As a doctor, it can seem as if you are operating with blinders.

Doctors, who have faced drastic cuts in reimbursements, have seen their malpractice insurance premiums rise at alarming rates. Physicians pay anywhere from $15,000 to $100,000 per year. Many companies will not give doctors a rider (additional coverage) to work fights, but those who really love the sport work without protection.

The solutions are limited, but the status quo is inadequate and unfair. Ring physicians should be: 1) treated as agents of the state commission, 2) added to a promoter's liability policy that covers inspectors and other officials, 3) the commission should insure the doctor has a rider on their existing policy, or 4) as exists in Pennsylvania, they be given a "cloak of sovereign immunity" if trained, licensed, and assigned by the commission. ■

By Jim Bagg

Rules Are Meant To Be ... Amended

A society needs laws. Without rules, there is chaos. Blah, blah, blah.

Here are the two problems with laws: First, with laws come lawyers. And second, the people making the laws are usually egomaniacs, bribe-accepters, idiots, or egomaniacal bribe-accepting idiots.

And when people like that make the laws, you get a situation like what we saw with NFL players Donte Stallworth and Plaxico Burress. Stallworth got behind the wheel drunk, killed someone, and served 24 days in jail. Burress brought a gun into a nightclub, accidentally shot himself in the leg, and was sentenced to two years in the big house. Again, he shot *himself* in the leg. Didn't the punishment pretty well fit the crime right there? Regardless, he harmed nobody but himself and got a major prison term, whereas Stallworth ended another man's life and was a free man inside four weeks. This is what happens when idiots make the laws, idiots enforce the laws, idiots argue on behalf of their clients, and idiots swing a big gavel to make up for other shortcomings.

So what does this all have to do with boxing? In the state of Nevada, something strange is afoot, as the people in charge of the athletic commission actually passed two new rules in August that made sense. Keith "Ham And Swiss On A" Kizer and his underlings voted to start using instant replay to determine if a fight-ending cut was caused by a punch or a butt, and they also updated an old rule that barred fighters who'd previously suffered a cerebral hemorrhage from applying for a license in the state.

The instant-replay rule was a no-brainer that really should have gone into effect years ago. The brain-bleed rule was—well, the Baggtastic can't call that one a "no-brainer," that would be insensitive. So he'll just call it "open-minded." Actually, that's just as insensitive. Whatever. The point is Edwin Valero is living proof that not all cerebral hemorrhages are created equal, and it was high time that Nevada at least *consider* giving him the same rights other states and other countries give him.

Clearly, Nevada is in the mood to improve and adjust archaic rules. So why stop now? They've done some good, but they've hardly cured all that ails boxing. Here are five more rule changes that the Baggnipotent feels Nevada—and any and all other commissions—ought to implement immediately:

PHOTO BY CHRIS COZZONE/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Will rule change bring Valero to Vegas?

1. Extend instant replay use to cover low blows: Whether a punch lands on the beltline or an inch below it is tough for the naked eye to see, especially when that eye is on the wrong side of the action, blocked by a body or two. Sometimes, all a ref has to go on is a fighter's reaction. And fighters know that, which is why they often get hit on the protective padding at the top of the cup and go down like they've been Tasered in order to earn an extra point. The time has come to curb that pugilistic thespianism by penalizing the fakers. When a fighter claims to have been hit by a low blow, the ref calls timeout anyway to give him a chance to recover, so why not use that time to check the replay?

If it was indeed a low blow, the guy who threw the punch is warned or penalized accordingly. If it wasn't low, then the chump who hit the deck and made the phony tragedy-mask face loses a point.

2. Instruct judges to use their 10 points more liberally: The 10-point-must system is about as useful as a can of Dippity-Do in Kelly Pavlik's medicine cabinet, but it's especially stupid when every single round is scored 10-9. A round clearly controlled by one fighter should not be scored the same as a round where a judge can barely make up his mind. Plus, won't it add drama to a fight in which one guy leads by four or five points with two rounds to go if he doesn't just have to stay on his feet to win? One-sided rounds should be 10-8. One-sided rounds with a knockdown should be 10-7, or even 10-6. A heavy knockdown can be scored differently than a flash knockdown. The commissions should tell their judges to make use of all those points they have to work with. The only downside is that Gale Van Hoy will start scoring fights 118-23 for the local guy, but otherwise, it's all positive.

PHOTO BY MARIO CASTILLO/LATIN CONTENT/GETTY IMAGES

Maybe I drank one cup too many

3. Allow dangling tape to dangle: Really, the rule should be, "Use electrical tape like they do in California, since it works." But if we can't get commissioners to wise up to that extent, let's at least remind referees that never in the history of the sport has a loose piece of tape injured a fighter. If the tape on a glove is hanging off, don't halt the action. Let it continue until the end of the round, and then have the cornermen fix it. Until then, you're doing the fistic equivalent of plucking Marilyn Monroe's eyebrow hair in the middle of a nude scene.

4. All non-essential personnel are banned from the ring: Every fighter brings a dozen people to the ring with him, bearing flags, belts, or cheap suits. Then you have the ring announcer, the ref, five security guards, three members of the local commission, a kid in a wheelchair, Alfredo Angulo's dog, and Gary Shaw's son. (Seriously, that silver-spooner is everywhere, and he changes his haircut the way the Baggamaniac changes his underwear—about twice a month.) It's time for commissions to pass some rules: Each fighter can bring no more than four people into the ring with him, then you won't need as many security guards (two should do the trick); and no commission members or other politicos in the ring, just the ref and the ring announcer. Suddenly, instead of 37 people and a canine, you have 14 people, and the fans can actually catch a glimpse of their favorite fighters as they're being introduced.

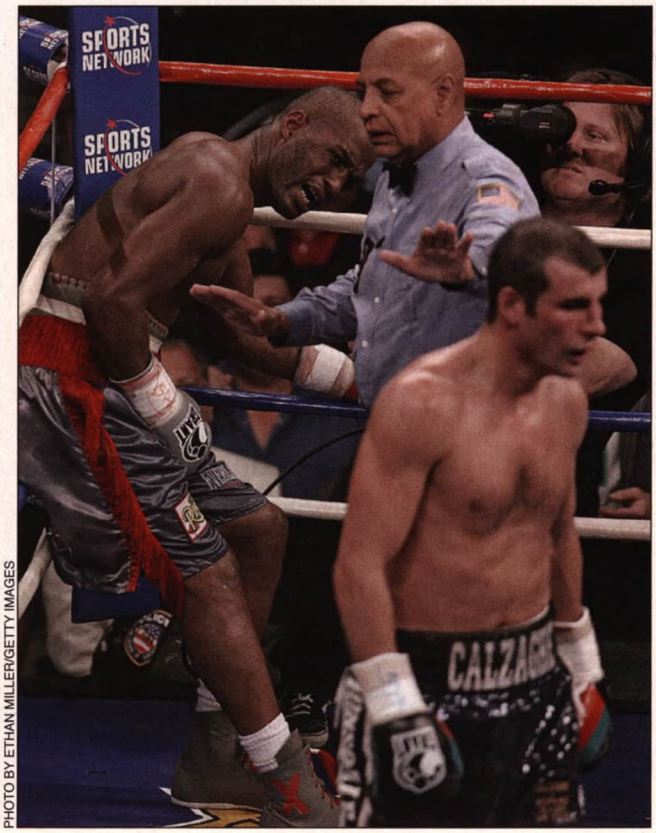


PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Should B-Hop have been penalized for overacting?

5. Test urine for traces of urine: Not that fighters should be penalized for drinking their own urine, but the Baggnoplasty just wants to know who is and isn't engaging in this practice so we can organize a comprehensive study on the benefits. For all we know, Juan Manuel Marquez isn't the only one drinking everything twice. Who knows, maybe tinkle helps an athlete more than HGH. If the commissions start testing pee for

previously expelled pee, we can begin to learn more about this subject. (Assuming, that is, that the fighters don't drink their own samples before the commissions can test them.)

Pac Pick Time

Baggstradamus promised a couple of issues ago that his official pick in the Manny Pacquiao-Miguel Cotto fight would come a little closer to fight time, but now the stalling is over and the envelope holding the winner's name has arrived. You'll remember, of course, that yours truly was one of the few voices of reason predicting a Pacquiao victory over Oscar De La Hoya, and the Baggaroni showed that was no fluke by prognosticating a dominant win for Pac-Man over Ricky Hatton. So is he backing his streaking Filipino horse one more time?

The answer is neigh. Or nay.

The speed differential in Pacquiao's favor will be staggering, but Cotto's a sturdy welterweight who can box better than he sometimes gets credit for. And importantly, he doesn't see the end of his career looming on the horizon as "The Golden Boy" and "The Hitman" did. Cotto is young and very prideful and he's going to keep trying to win, round after round, even if he falls behind early (which he will). Look for Pacquiao's speed to succeed for several rounds, but once Cotto starts landing bodypunches, it's bad news for the pound-for-pound king. The pick: Cotto, trailing on points, by kayo in the ninth. Take that one to the betting window, then to the bank.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA/TOP RANK

Bagg is in Cotto's corner

Baggie Bites

Since approximately 98 percent of all children these days get diagnosed with ADD or ADHD (what is that, attention-deficit disorder in high definition?), the Baggtropolis is sharing some of his brilliance in short bursts:

• Good for Christy Martin for championing gender equality in the field of hanging around too long. There's no reason male fighters should be cornering the market on stubborn-

PHOTO BY STEVE SAMOYDENY/FIGHTWIRE IMAGES

Martin still plugging away at age 41

The Monthly Mailbagg

For months and months, the Baggfectionist has been begging for interesting, well-written, clever e-mails. Why? Because the more decent copy you people write, the less work the Baggitarius has to do. Well, for once, one of you delivered and made the Bagg-Kebob's life easier:

Hey Baggadonuts,

Did you see that the WBC has announced the winner of Pac-Man-Cotto will get the new prestigious "Diamond Belt"? Does Andre Berto get a Diamond Belt? Does the Pac-Man-Cotto winner have to defend the Diamond Belt? What if they relinquish the Diamond Belt to avoid sanctioning fees (since it appears the WBC won't charge one this time, since it's a special occasion and all), will there be a fight for the vacant Diamond Belt?

I offer a solution. Selcuk Aydin and Ivan Kirpa can square off to determine the mandatory Diamond Belt challenger. Luis Carlos Abregu and Rafal Jackiewicz can fight to determine an interim Diamond Belt champion since we'll have to have one of those. Oh wait; Selcuk Aydin is already the WBC International Champion, so Kirpa can fight Jesus Soto-Karass to be the mandatory Diamond Belt challenger. I don't know who any of these guys are, but they're all in the WBC's top 10, so they must be good. Hey, and check this out, "Super Diamond Belt Champion" ... Yeah, baby! What do you think?

Jason
Kapolei, HI

Jason,

The Baggmeister thinks it's refreshing that someone from Hawaii is doing something constructive with his time instead of just wasting his life away surfing and drinking coconut milk. You've cut through the crap and, with just the right level of sarcasm, put the scoundrels at the WBC in their place. There's not much more the Baggendorfer needs to say. Except maybe to tell the Pacquiao-Cotto winner, "Hope you like cubic zirconium." This is Jose Sulaiman we're talking about, after all.

ness, so Martin made a powerful statement on behalf of women everywhere by looking like a shell of her former self at age 41 in winning a majority decision over 40-year-old journeyperson Dakota Stone in August. Martin has reportedly announced that her next goal is to break down another gender wall and impregnate lots of women out of wedlock.

• Big news from the gossip world, as Britain's two most famous fighters of the last few years, Joe Calzaghe and Ricky Hatton, both split from their longtime girlfriends over the summer. That means Jo-Emma Larvin and Jennifer Dooley are back in the dating pool. And what's the logical next step after ending a relationship with a boxer? Starting one with a boxing writer. Jo-Emma Bagg has a certain ring to it. Jen Bagg isn't bad either. And if you gals want to go the *Big Love* route and share the Bagganova, no objections here.

• There's a Tennessee cruiserweight named Marvin Hunt who boasts a record of 12-24-1 (5), including 14 losses in his last 16 fights. What's his official nickname? "Marvelous," of course. Never has the world needed a nickname czar to approve or deny moniker requests more than it does right now.

• Ya gotta love network TV. For the first time since the Hoover administration, ABC decides to show boxing in prime time ... and they give us Oscar De La Hoya vs. Shaquille O'Neal. Plus they bill Oliver McCall as a reigning heavyweight champion. Had the show been called *Bagg Vs.* and featured the world's greatest boxing columnist in the ring against his various ex-wives, maybe you would have had a quality program on your hands. But *Shaq Vs.*? Even by the low standards set by a network that gave us *I Survived A Japanese Game Show* and *Wife Swap*, this was pure crap.

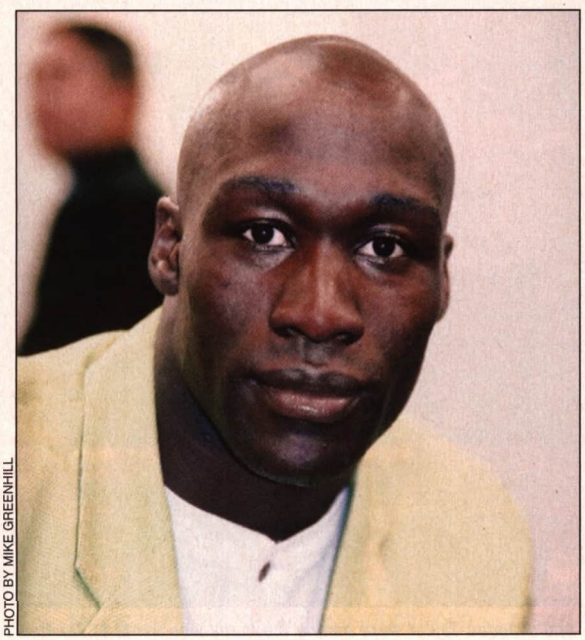


PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

Chop Chop earns a Stingray

And The Stingray Goes To ...

Former junior welterweight titlist DeMarcus "Chop Chop" Corley, who brought his 34-11-1 record all the way to Kazakhstan to take on 11-1 James Kimori and came away with an eighth-round knockout win. Kimori didn't just get beaten by a 35-year-old journeyman who recently endured a six-fight losing streak. He got beaten by someone who fits that description *and* wears Victoria's Secret ladies' underwear.

Chop Chop may not be the manliest man, but he's a tough dude and he doesn't roll over for anyone. This win over a once-beaten prospect gets him a well-deserved Stingray. What undergarments he wears at the awards ceremony are up to him. ■

Jim Bagg can be reached at Baggmeister@yahoo.com.

Come Out Writing

Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, THE RING, P.O. Box 114, Blue Bell, PA 19422.

Or e-mail letters to comeoutwriting@yahoo.com. E-mailed letters will include the writer's e-mail address unless a city and state of origin is provided.

Mayweather-Marquez Reaction

Congrats to Floyd Mayweather for beating Juan Manuel Marquez in a dominating fashion. I liked how Shane Mosley went after Mayweather during his postfight interview. Everyone wants to see Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao, but I'd rather see Mayweather face Mosley. Golden Boy Promotions should start campaigning hard for that fight to be made. Mosley should even offer to take a smaller purse like he did when he was going after Pacquiao, because Floyd says Mosley isn't a big draw. I say give "Money" more money to satisfy his argument as to why he won't fight "Sugar Shane." It's time for boxing fans and the media to start demanding this fight—two legitimate welterweights fighting for the title of best in the division.

MATT CHICK
Dover, DE

Hopefully after the Mayweather-Marquez weight fiasco, this will be the end of smaller fighters jumping multiple divisions to find superfights. Marquez should never have left the lightweight division, which seemed to suit him fine. Also, there was, and still is a potential superfight there against Edwin Valero, someone Marquez' own size. Now that Mayweather has had his tune-up to pay up with the IRS, let's see if he can fight someone in his own division such as Shane Mosley. If not, there is the winner of the Miguel Cotto-Manny Pacquiao fight and Andre Berto.

JEREMY GUERRIERI
Painesville, Ohio

I wasn't too surprised by what happened in the Mayweather-Marquez fight. I only gave Marquez a 20-percent chance of winning. In my opinion, there are only two guys that can get

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Readers Matt Chick, Jeremy Guerrero, and Brandon Taylor were among the many who wrote to THE RING regarding the Mayweather-Marquez fight. If there is one thing most readers agreed upon, it's that Mayweather should fight somebody his own size next time.

the job done against Mayweather: Manny Pacquiao and Paul Williams. I doubt that either of those fights is going to happen. Shane Mosley made it pretty clear that he wants the next shot at Mayweather. Mayweather will probably decision him, even though I think Mayweather will be more aggressive against Mosley than Marquez and try to knock him out. Mayweather seemed to have respect for Marquez, while he bitterly dislikes Mosley.

As for Marquez, this loss will probably cause him to lose a little luster, but there is a very simple way for him to recover from the loss: defend the lightweight championship. Marquez should be the guy to hand Edwin Valero his first loss. He should also fight Humberto Soto, Amir Khan, and Jorge Linares. One thing we probably know for sure: A third fight with Pacquiao was a bleak possibility before the Mayweather fight, now Marquez can forget about it.

BRANDON TAYLOR
blt1990@sbcglobal.net

Ricky Ruminations

I'm a huge Manny Pacquiao fan, but I'm also a huge Ricky Hatton fan too. Theirs was one fight where I didn't want to see a loser. But, hey, that's what the sport is all about. I believe Hatton can still compete on a world-class level. His only two losses were to two men who held the distinction of being pound-for-pounds best in the world at the time each faced him. I would love to see Ricky in the ring at least once more, but, more importantly, whatever Hatton decide to do, I wish him the best of luck. And thank him so much for the memories.

R. TROY MORRIS
Calcutta, OH

Texas Travesty

I just finished watching the Paulie Malignaggi-Juan Diaz fight on HBO's *Boxing After Dark*. I have never been a Malignaggi fan, but after 12 rounds against Juan Diaz, he should have had his hand raised. We read before the fight that Malignaggi felt the cards were stacked against him and how difficult it is to get a just decision in Texas against a Texan. Then I watched the fight, only to see Malignaggi's worst fears come true. In his postfight interview, a pissed-off Malignaggi was astonishingly honest in his self-assessment, calling himself an "opponent" and yelling profanities about the politics of boxing, the sport that he used to love, which is now "full of s___."

It's hard to disagree with him. After the fight we heard the familiar clichés: how Malignaggi was robbed, how this is another "black eye for the sport of boxing," blah, blah, blah. The reality is that judges are killing the sport of boxing. Anyone wondering why team sports are more popular than boxing need look no further than Houston, Texas.

AARON S. BAYLEY
Toronto, ON

Quality Journalism

I would like to compliment David Mayo for his consistently well-rounded insights, always eloquently expressed in his exceptional writing skills. The Arturo Gatti tribute article in the October 2009 issue of THE RING is the most recent examples of Mr. Mayo's prowess, not just as a boxing expert but also as a great, emotive writer. In an age where anyone with a computer fancies himself as an authority (particularly in boxing, where blog forums are littered with junk and filth), it is comforting to know that quality, in-depth journalism still exists in our sport. Well done to RING magazine for being the torchbearer of quality boxing journalism by retaining the services of writers such as Mr. Mayo (and many others).

BRIAN HAN
Sydney, Australia

PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Reader Richard Escoto wanted to know what Chris John was drinking between rounds of his rematch with Rocky Juarez. He also wanted to thank Golden Boy Promotions for making the fight available at movie theaters and hopes that the trend continues.

What Was In That Bottle?

Was I imagining things when I saw Chris John's corner giving him lemon-lime PowerAde between rounds in his rematch with Rocky Juarez? I thought fighters were only allowed water during bouts.

Also, I would like to thank Golden Boy Promotions for bringing Mayweather-Marquez to movie theaters. Promoters should consider screening pay-per-view fights at movie theaters regularly. The screening in Riverside, California, nearly sold out and it was full of families. Casinos and bars rarely let minors or anyone under 21 inside for fights. If promoters are interested in a younger fan base, then they should sign a long-term contract with Fathom Events.

RICHARD ESCOTO
Monterey Park, CA

Editor's note: In July 2006, the Nevada State Athletic Commission changed the rules, so that fighters could consume sports drinks, such as Gatorade, between rounds. ■

[Looking Ahead]

By Don Stewart

Oh, Brother

Both draw television ratings in their native Japan that rival the Super Bowl in the United States, so **Daisuke Naito-Koki Kameda** isn't exactly a hard sell. Throw in the bad blood between these two, and the added intrigue could make their November 29 flyweight showdown the most watched boxing event in the nation's history.

PHOTO BY TOSHIFUMI KITAMURA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Kameda (left) and Naito are scheduled to clash in Japan

Naito, the WBC beltholder, outpointed the brash Kameda's equally brash younger brother, Daiki, in a rowdy October 2007 bout. A frustrated Daiki elbowed and body slammed Naito, leading to a one-year suspension for Daiki. During the fight, Koki was overheard telling his brother to elbow Naito in the eye.

The eyes could be a target again. The 35-year-old Naito, 35-2-3 (22), who is rated number one by THE RING, is coming off a May win against China's **Xiong Zhao Zhong** in which he suffered a wounded eye. The injury forced the postponement of a WBC-mandated fifth meeting with second-ranked **Pongsaklek Wongjongkam,** but led to one of the biggest matchups in Japan since Godzilla-Mothra.

Kameda, 21-0 (14), a 23-year-old southpaw ranked number six by THE RING, is out to uphold the family's honor. "It has been two years since Daiki made the challenge," he told *Kyodo News*. "As his older brother, I definitely will bring home the belt to the Kameda family that Daiki was unable to get."

Too bad this one won't get much notice in the U.S. It would make a killer *24/7* series.

Raging Back

After his 2007 knockout loss to **Nonito Donaire**, **Vic Darchinyan** bounced back to post some of the most impressive wins of his career. "The Raging Bull" has now mapped out an ambitious 2010 agenda in hopes of recovering from a July bantamweight loss to **Joseph Agbeko**.

Darchinyan, 32-2-1 (26), is returning to the 115-pound class, where he is rated number one by THE RING and still holds two alphabet belts. The 33-year-old southpaw slugger reportedly wants a significant fight in Australia, where the native Armenian is based. He's hoping for a rematch with Donaire, a meeting with bantamweight beltholder **Fernando Montiel**, and a unification bout with **Marvin Sonosa**.

First, he'll meet interim beltholder **Tomas Rojas**, 31-11-1 (22), December 12 on the **Timothy Bradley-Lamont Peterson** undercard. Rojas, 29, has lost every time he's stepped up, having been felled by a **Jorge Arce** bodyshot in 2007 and outpointed by **Anselmo Moreno**, **Gerry Penalosa**, and **Cristian Mijares**, among others. The southpaw is unbeaten in his last six fights, though, and at 5'8½" will be the tallest opponent the 5'5½" Darchinyan has faced.

Possibly humbled by the Agbeko setback, Darchinyan didn't sound as if he was looking past Rojas in September. "He is much taller than me, and in the last two years after Arce he has won nearly all his fights by knockout," Darchinyan told the Australian Associated Press. "He was winning every round of his fight against Arce until he got hit with a good shot in the liver."

Listen Up

An intriguing lightweight bout between **Edwin Valero** and **Humberto Soto** on the November 14 **Manny Pacquiao-Miguel Cotto** undercard had to be scrapped after Valero was denied a work visa. Soto, 49-7-2 (32), rated number one at junior lightweight by THE RING, was still slated for a lightweight bout as of press time. Also on the card, WBA junior middleweight beltholder **Daniel Santos**, 32-3-1 (23), defends against unbeaten **Yuri Foreman**, 27-0 (8), and former *Contender* star **Alfonso Gomez**, 20-4-2 (10), meets rising welterweight **Jesus Soto-Karass**, 24-3-3 (16) … **Matthew Hatton**, 37-4-1 (14), whose bout with **Zab Judah** on the **Floyd Mayweather-Juan Manuel Marquez** undercard fell through, will instead meet former 140-pound beltholder **Lovemore N'Dou**, 47-11-1 (31), in a welterweight bout November 13 at Manchester, England … Fresh off his impressive August win against **Jeff Lacy**, 40-year-old **Roy Jones** moves up to cruiserweight to face Australia's **Danny Green**, 27-3 (24), December 2 in Sydney. Jones, 54-5 (40), is looking for his third straight victory … Speaking of fortysomethings, junior middleweight contender **Verno Phillips** tangles with former welterweight beltholder **Carlos Quintana** on December 3, five days after Phillips turns 40. Phillips, 42-11-1 (21), ranked number three by THE RING, is coming off a knockout loss to **Paul Williams** last November. Quintana, 26-2 (20), rated number six at welterweight, was stopped in one round by Williams in a June 2008 rematch. ■

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